In 1918 an unusual northeast wind, probably of hurricane strength, struck the area of the old Sells home, and according to Mrs. Grace Booker Sells, destroyed virtually everything. Mrs. Sells, widow of John Sells, recalls that near her present home, a store owned by Adam Roux was located. During the destructive wind, bolts of materials were whipped through the bushes, and yards and yards of calico, polka dots and silk were draped over fences, around trees and across ditches. Although homes and businesses were ruined, Mrs. Sells tells us there was no loss of life.

Due to this destruction, and the prospect of living in a tent, Mr. Roux sold his property to Numa Nunez, and in 1919, with the help of a neighbor, John Sells, the present home was built. Lumber was brought into Oak Grove from Lake Arthur and hauled by mule and wagon to Cameron. When the Nunez home was completed, the men built a home for John Sells and his family.

After Mr. Nunez's death, Mrs. Nunez remarried and moved out of the parish. John Sells then purchased the house, but neither he nor his wife ever lived in the home. However, the house has remained in his family's possession and for that reason is known as the "John Sells home".

There was no family living there during Hurricane Audrey, but since the old home remained standing, and only shifted slightly from its block, it's possible that lives could have been saved had anyone sought shelter there. It's "twin" home, the one built for John Sells, had been demolished prior to the storm. Mrs. Sells is sure that had it too been standing during the hurricane, it would have also withstood the elements. "In those days," she remarked, "they built them for strength and not for beauty."

Several miles east of Cameron is the Peshoff cemetery, located on the old Edward Peshoff homeplace, behind the John Sells property, on another ridge. Edward Peshoff gave a corner of his property for this cemetery, and Mrs. John Sells deeded additional land to enlarge it. The oldest marker is on the grave of Edward Peshoff, born in 1842 and died in 1913. His wife is also buried here; his children buried in this cemetery are: J. Marceuleus, born in 1871, Aristile born in 1877, and Paul in 1888. The wives of these sons, nephews, nieces and cousins are still being buried here.

As most of the older cemeteries, the areas chosen were shaded by oak and hackberry trees, usually in the corner of a field or property line. Also, the highest part of the property was selected, and the most beautiful, as was in the case of the Peshoff Cemetery. It seems so peaceful and serene.
This ridge was known as Zack’s Ridge and belonged to Edward Peshoff and his wife Larmy Daigle. The old homesite was located in the grove of oaks to the west of the road.

The old Howard school existed as far back as the 1890's. It was a two room building, constructed of wood and located on the second ridge or "Zack's" ridge. The school was located on land that once belonged to Edward Peshoff and John Sells. It was named for a man who was then prominent in the community. His children attended the school, as well as the Peshoffs, the Sells, and the children of other families who lived in the immediate area. A lady, who once taught in the old school, Mrs. John Sells, remembers teaching 42 pupils in the "one-room" system of teaching.

The school was destroyed in 1918 by a wind of tremendous force, rebuilt at the corner of parish road 353 and Highway 27 on Sells property and destroyed again in Hurricane Audrey of 1957. The school had not been in use for many years.

The original home of these early settlers was a large ten room house, surrounded by huge oak trees and located about six and a half miles east of Leesburg. Brown "Tootie" Marshall, one of Tom and Molly's sons, tells us the kitchen was 24 feet long and the front porch was 53 feet long, extending across the entire south end of the house. In the 1918 hurricane, part of the house was demolished. The part remaining was blown about 24 feet south of where it stood originally. They were unable to move it, so they put blocks under it and left it there, repairing the damages. Hurricane Audrey completely demolished the old home and left only the brick pillars. In recent years another house was built by Brown Marshall; he and his wife live here.

The oak trees nearest the house and in the yard and cowpen were planted by Mrs. Marshall, known to many as "Aunt Molly". The others—east of the house—are said to be over a hundred years old, being large trees when the Marshalls moved here.

Mr. Marshall farmed many acres of land, raising cotton, corn, peanuts, potatoes and watermelons. He used oxen to farm and in fact owned nine pair. During Leonce Nunez's time as police juror of his ward, he hired Mr. Marshall to build and grade the road. Mr. Marshall used his oxen and a heavy plow with a large grader blade to do the job. He was paid $80 per mile of road, involving many days of hard work—hauling, packing and leveling dirt. It was said the road beds he built were the best in the parish.
L-2. **ADAM DAIGLE HOMESTEAD**

The house that originally stood here was built by Joseph Daigle, a trapper from Grand Lake, for his wife, Mary O. LeBeouf and their children. He was caught in a tidal wave and drowned in 1909 at the age of 50 while trapping in Holly Beach. His wife continued to live here with her children. That same year one of her sons, Adam, married Estelle Smith, daughter of John and Virginia Smith, who lived in a house where the Berton Daigle home is now. Mary LeBeouf Daigle died at the age of 86 in 1935.

After a severe storm in 1918 severely damaged both homes, the old Joseph Daigle house was torn down and was replaced with the new Adam Daigle homeplace. At this time it is still occupied by Mrs. Daigle and her daughter, Mrs. Edna Bertrand. The lumber and materials were brought in by barge and erected by friends and relatives. It was so well built that it suffered little damage during Hurricane Audrey. Except for a bath and porches, there has been little remodeling.

L-3. **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS CHADWELL HOMESTEAD**

Christopher Columbus Chadwell, son of Esau Chadwell and Celiva LeBouve, married Rosalie Rogers. During the early years of their marriage, they lived on the old Esau Chadwell place on the Calcasieu River. Because of its inaccessible location, when Mrs. Chadwell's health began to fail, it became necessary to move on the Chadwell property east of Cameron.

Here "Cas Esau", as he was called, continued to raise cattle and sheep. With the exception of a vegetable garden, the only land he farmed was in corn and this was used for stock feed. Mrs. Chadwell, known to most folks as "Cissy", raised chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese. There was a small orchard with persimmon, orange, lemon, fig and pomegranate trees. It was a beautiful old place.

When Mr. Chadwell decided to retire, he sold the house, 263 acres of land and 84 head of cattle to Gabriel Richard. He and his wife bought what was then known as the Dellino LeBoeuf homeplace from Mr. Richard and moved there February 7, 1950. After Mr. Chadwell's death April 24, 1951, his wife continued to live there.

One never saw Rosalie without lock-shaped gold earrings adorning her ears. These were a precious gift given to her when a little girl by her father Captain Milford Rogers. He bought them especially for "Cissy" on one of his schooner trips to Galveston. Rosalie drowned June 27, 1957, in Hurricane Audrey and many days afterward these same earrings made the identity of her body possible.

L-4. **SAVOIE SCHOOL ----- School Days in 1887**

(The following are excerpts from an article submitted to the Cameron Parish Pilot by Mrs. Nell Laurence Harrison of Lake Charles.)

"The only way into Cameron and out was by boat, the Ontario—down one day and back the next day to Lake Charles. My first time there to
teach was in the Savoie School, eight miles out from Cameron. Mr. Savoie came for me in a wagon, had two horses hitched to the wagon. When we came to the bog places, Mr. Savoie would stand up and whip over the horses' backs—they went through in leaps. Mr. Savoie said: "Miss Laurence I expected you to be afraid." I laughed!...

"The school room was good—two long tables and benches with no backs. I had 39 pupils..... The salary at this time was $30.00 per month. Board was eight dollars.".......Jim Wakefield was Sheriff at the time...The school was at Murphy settlement. Three families of Murphy's lived there—Dennis Murphy, Tom Murphy and one other Murphy...."

M-1. ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH

This church when first constructed in the early 1900's was known as St. Hubert's Catholic Church. It was a chapel of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Creole to serve the colored people of the community. The wooden building, 32' x 48' was destroyed by Hurricane Audrey in 1957.

In 1960, Dyson Lumber and Supply Company built the existing wooden frame structure, 40' x 80', with a seating capacity for 200. The name was changed to St. Rose of Lima. The church is now open to both colored and white.

M-2. ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY

The cemetery is in two sections, one on each side of the church building. The oldest markers are dated in the early 1920's, and are those of the LaSalles and Moores.

M-3. "SWINGING GATE"

The old gate was located at the east end of Willow Island and was constructed in such a way that a rider did not have to dismount to open it. He merely had to push his horse against the end of the gate and it would open for him to go through and then close behind him. Horseback riders used this beach route for traveling to and from Creole, Grand Chenier and other points east or west toward Cameron and Johnson's Bayou.

M-4. WILLOW ISLAND

No one seems to know how Willow Island got its name, since it is not an island. It was suggested the "island" came from the line of trees that form an island on the approximately two miles stretch of land that parallels the Gulf between the Front Ridge Road and Broussard's Beach Road.

There is an old tale about a family who lived on Willow Island many, many years ago. They farmed the land in cotton. Legend has it that while plowing, a treasure chest supposedly buried by the pirate Jean Lafitte was recovered and reported.
The Ebenezer Baptist Church was organized July 4, 1878, under the pastorate of Reverend H. Johnson.


This cemetery is located just east of the church, in five sections. There are two sections for Ebenezer members, one plot for the LeBlanc families, another for the Church of God in Christ members, the last being for the Gulf Menhaden Company employees and families.

The oldest graves in these plots are members of these families: Hebert, Andrews, Jones, Rose, Rankin, Pradia, Moss, Savoie and LeBlanc. The earliest markers are dated in the early 1900's.

On February 14, 1945, Alvin Dyson and Dick McClelland, purchased an acre of land from Mrs. Alexis Daigle, James Daigle and Lucy Daigle Abrahamsen. This land is located approximately six miles east of Cameron, on the Front Ridge Road. The land was purchased for a cemetery for the First Baptist Church of Cameron. The oldest marker is for the grave of Adam Duhon, who died in 1945.

Alexis Daigle was the brother of Adam Daigle and married to Stella Murphy. They had two children, Lucy and James. Lucy, Mrs. Stanley Abrahamsen, now lives in the original house built by her father although it has been remodeled in parts. Like the home of Adam Daigle, it was well built with strong supports and suffered little damage in Hurricane Audrey. The house and the land acquired by Alexis Daigle was inherited by Lucy and James at his death, some of which has been sold to individuals for homesites. Mr. Daigle was a farmer. He also owned and operated a grocery store for many years.

One of the many tales told about this section of Cameron is the hanging of a man and the shooting of another in the early 1800's for cattle stealing. A group of self-appointed vigilantes took him to Willow Island for the hanging.

In 1948 Roland J. "Bolo" Trosclair moved here from Houma with his wife Adenise and son Roland "T-Bolo" Jr. They built a shrimp packing factory in the same location as the present one. The work was done by Bolo with the help of carpenters and local laborers available. What
material he couldn't find in this area, he would get in Lake Charles by simply taking off in a truck and hauling it back himself.

In 1951 he installed canning equipment. This was completely destroyed by Hurricane Audrey, but was rebuilt, putting in better and more mechanized canning machinery.

After Bolo's death in 1963, his wife and two sons, T-Bolo and Phillip, became the owners and operators. Their operational season is from late May to December when they unload shrimp for canning from about 47 locally owned and independent shrimp boats. On their payroll, they have six regular employees during the winter months and 66 during the operating season. The boats have a total of 94 employees with 2 to 3 persons per boat.

0-1. BIOLOGICAL STATION

To the left of the Jetty Road traveling south is a square of cedar trees. Behind the cedars is the location of the old government station.

In 1901 Samuel P. Henry sold a ten acre tract of land to the State of Louisiana for the purpose of building and maintaining a biological station for the protection of game birds and fish, scientific research and biological investigations. This was a conditional sale whereby should the state cease its biological operations, the property would revert to Mr. Henry and/or his heirs.

The station was known as the Biological Station of the Gulf Coast. It was run by Millage W. McCall. There was a boarding house on the property for the employees and their families.

In a publication by Lacee Fortier, Louisiana Volume I dated 1909, "...The principal point of interest about Cameron is the gulf biological station, which was established here by the legislature."

It is interesting to note that this ten acre tract was included in an original land grant dated November 1, 1860, and signed by the President of the United States, James Buchanan. The bounty land was issued in favor of William McCormick, a private in Captain Grosh's Company, Pennsylvania Militia, for services rendered in the War of 1812. For reasons unknown to us, McCormick did not want this grant and assigned the warrant over to John Rykoski.

According to an instrument on record, the station was abandoned in 1912; however the buildings remained until 1933, when it was torn down. Some of this lumber was used in building the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. "Buster" Henry, Sr.'s home.

0-2. "THE OAKS"

The grove of oak trees known as "The Oaks" and located on the left of Jetty Road was the "old Goos place." Daniel Goos and his wife Catherine Noelting lived here for a short while. This is the same family for which Goosport in Calcasieu Parish was named.
0-3. MONKEY ISLAND

When the channel was dug in 1938, water encompassed an area of mainland to form the island known as Monkey Island.

Tradition has it that the name was adopted during the early days of World War II when a lot of Coast Guardmen were stationed here to protect the beaches from German submarines. The local people saw these men around town, running back and forth across the island and not doing much of anything that they could see, and referred to them as 'those monkeys across the river.' The name Monkey Island caught on and remains to this day.

0-4. JESSIE J. ROGERS GULF HOTEL

The Rogers Gulf Hotel came into existence October 14, 1918, when Jessie J. (son of Captain Milford and Louisa Rogers) and his wife acquired one acre of land and a two-story building from Albert T. Richard of Mamou for $850.

It was located across the river from Leesburg where the mouth of the Calcasieu River met the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Being inaccessible except by water and therefore having to furnish transportation for guests, a third story was added and used as a lookout. From this vantage point, one could survey the gulf for schooners or the river, and forewarn Mrs. Rogers, née Theresa Dulaney, of approaching visitors and guests so someone could be on the wharf to greet them.

The first floor contained eight guest rooms, a large kitchen and dining room. The guests could stroll or sit on the railed porch which bordered all four sides of the hotel's first floor. The second floor was reserved for the large Rogers family; they had eight children.

Sloping downward to the river was a long, wide boardwalk. Near it was the dock where Mr. Rogers kept several skiffs with oars ready to transport supplies and hotel guests back and forth to the mainland. The river water was clear and similar to the gulf in that the sandy bottom sloped outward from the shore. The children played on the beautiful white sandy beach while their mothers swam in the shallow water area which Mr. Rogers marked off with posts for them.

This mild form of pleasure held no fascination for the Rogers children and their cousins! They preferred climbing the ladder to the old range light and diving from it into the deep water. The range light was easy to get to from the boardwalk, which had been extended southward to accommodate the lighthouse attendants in their duties.

Some of the first oleanders in the parish were planted in their yard along with a few other shrubs, china and hackberry trees. North of the hotel was a small fruit orchard containing mostly peach trees.

Businessmen, duck hunters and summer vacationers came from all over Louisiana to enjoy the pretty beach and the Rogers' brand of good food and southern hospitality. Grandchildren too, welcomed a vacation
at the hotel and asked to be served meals, especially breakfast, "just like the boarders."

The end came when the proposed ship channel route cut through the hotel property. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers sold to Elmer E. Shutts March 31, 1939. Mr. Shutts sold to the United States of America for the use in construction, improving and maintaining the Lake Charles ship channel from the docks at Lake Charles to the Gulf of Mexico in accordance with a project duly authorized by congress. The right-of-way for the channel took in the entire acre of land except one small corner. This has gradually been eroded by the waters and is now in the channel.

0-5. UNITED STATES COAST GUARD STATION

The original purchase in 1875 was for the United States Lighthouse Service, and not until many years later did it become known as the United States Coast Guard Station.

The oldest structures there, the administration building and the storage building by the water's edge, were built in 1942. The family houses on piling were built in 1950 and are presently occupied by four families.

Chief William G. Koone of San Antonio, Texas and his crew of six men fulfill the duties of the station which are primarily search and rescue and aids to navigation. A radio beacon station for navigation purposes is also maintained on the premises.

0-6. OLD CEMETERY

On the site of the United States Coast Guard Station is another old cemetery. There is only one gravemarker and it reads "Ada, wife of C. F. Crossman, born February 28, 1852, died February 13, 1901". She was probably the wife of a lighthouse keeper.

0-7. OLD LIGHTHOUSE

There was a lighthouse in 1860 for the United States census of that year lists the keeper and his family--George and Arthemis Plummer from the state of Maine. Since all of their eight children were listed as having been born in Maine and the youngest was only two years old, it is evident that they had been in Cameron only a short time. Also enumerated in this household was Bernard Benitrek—a man of 63 from Pennsylvania who was the assistant keeper of the lighthouse.

The old lighthouse, a black square pyramidal tower on poles, was located to the right of the old ferry land on the southwest end of the island. The location according to The Annual Report of the Lighthouse Board for 1899 was "Calcasieu, in marsh at entrance to Calcasieu River on west bank of Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana."

A Mr. Hill served as lighthouse keeper and after him came Mr. and
Mrs. Malone. They stayed here a long time and are remembered by many Cameron people.

0-8. OLD FERRY LANDING

This is where the eight car ferry operated connecting Monkey Island to Holly Beach, Johnson's Bayou and other points west.

0-9. WORLD WAR II GUN BATTERY

During World War II, the gulf was a nesting ground for enemy submarines. As a precautionary measure in the event of sea attack, a gun battery was installed on the west bank of the channel south of the old ferry landing which connected the island to Holly Beach. Its cement foundation is still there.

F. BACK TO THE RECREATION CENTER FOR A BOX LUNCH

Q-1. CALCASIEU-MARINE NATIONAL BANK

The first financial institution to locate in Cameron was the Calcasieu Marine National Bank of Lake Charles. A building located on the corner of Marshall Street and West Smith Circle Drive was leased from L. R. Henry and the doors of the Cameron Branch were opened for business March 1, 1952. Temporary quarters were established in the main bank in Lake Charles following Hurricane Audrey June 27, 1957, until the Cameron Branch could be repaired.

In the spring of 1968, plans were formulated for a larger and more modern building. Dyson Lumber and Supply Company of Cameron was the contractor and Elwood Reames of Lake Charles was the architect for the 85' x 115' bank valued in excess of $300,000 that we see today. It features expansive offices and working areas, two drive-in windows, a civic room and its own parking lot. The grand opening was held Saturday, May 31, 1969 with the bank opening for business June 2, 1969.

Q-2. OLD JAILHOUSE

The old jailhouse was used from 1874 to 1937, when the courthouse was completed. John Ashburn Roux purchased the old building, restored it and is now renting it. It was originally located in the courthouse square near the first courthouse.

Q-3. ADAM ROUX HOMEPLACE, now owned by J. Ashburn Roux

The land on which the home stands was purchased in 1856 by John Todd. Upon his death, his widow, Amanda, married Captain George C. Marshall; however, it is not certain who built the house. It was built, we are told by the family, between the years of 1856 and 1870.
The house passed through several hands, to be finally bought by Adam Roux, after a 1918 storm destroyed his store and home. The home has remained in the possession of the Roux family, who restored the home to its present condition.

In spite of its "shiny new" appearance, the family tells us that the front door came from Europe, and that a civil war cannon ball went through the roof! The ball is supposedly still on the premises.

Q-4. CAMERON DRUG STORE

The Cameron Drug Store was established in 1939, by J. Albert Colligan and his wife, Gertrude. The original store sold prescription drugs, patent medicine, such as the popular Wine-of-Cardui and Lydia Pinkams, as well as sewing notions, electric light sockets, bath towels and such. The soda fountain was very popular with Cameron residents and shrimpers who docked at Cameron wharves.

Until 1952, Cameron was without a doctor and Mr. Colligan filled the need by dressing wounds, removing fish hooks, giving tetanus shots, and once vaccinated the community against typhoid fever.

Mr. Colligan provided the building which serves as Cameron's doctor's office. Consequently, he has furnished the town of Cameron with their first medical building and the parish with the first, and so far, their only drugstore.

Q-5. CAMERON MEDICAL CENTER

The Cameron Medical Center was the first hospital in the town of Cameron, and was established in 1952 by Dr. Cecil Clark and his wife, Sybil.

The "clinic" as it has always been called, had a bed capacity of 16, with 4 semi-private rooms, and one 8-bed ward. It was a wood frame structure with a brick veneer front, and included an emergency room, a delivery room, a business section, and an office for Dr. Clark.

On the night of Hurricane Audrey, June 27, 1957, there were six patients in the clinic, including three newborn babies. They were all removed safely to the Courthouse. The building, however, was gutted by the tremendous winds and water.

Dr. Clark added several new rooms, and the clinic continued to serve as Cameron's only hospital until June 27, 1963, when the 27-bed parish general South Cameron Memorial Hospital opened. The new hospital was designed to meet the needs of all of Cameron Parish, and the Cameron Medical Center no longer accepted hospital patients. The clinic now functions only as office quarters for Dr. Clark.
The Custom House was located on Theogene Miller property just west of what is now the Esso Service Station and Garage. Thomas F. Monroe was the customs officer in the 1880's and it was his duty to issue sailing papers for the many schooners traveling back and forth to Galveston, Texas, Mexico and other gulf coast ports.

The customs officer issued quarantine papers, keeping sailors or schooner passengers with contagious diseases such as yellow fever or smallpox from coming ashore. He also kept a log of all incoming and outgoing cargoes, and had to collect duty on some of these imports.

L. R. "Pete" Henry can still recall how he and other boys about ten years old, were fascinated by sacks of Mexican dollars stashed in a corner of the customs office. These dollars, he said, were worth about fifty cents each here. He never found out why the money was there or what was finally done with it.

The Cameron Hotel

The property on which the Cameron Hotel is situated was purchased by a former Cameron Parish Sheriff, Ira G. Harper, from E. D. Miller August 17, 1886 and subsequently acquired the title of "Ira G. Harper Homestead". John A. Doxey purchased the homestead and sold it February 16, 1901 to William and Mary Eagleson Stine. The Cameron Hotel was in existence only a short time when it caught fire and burned to the ground. The scars from the fire can still be seen on the two huge oaks in the yard.

Cypress lumber was brought in by schooner and Ben Castaine, a carpenter of considerable talent from Grand Chenier, began rebuilding the hotel. Almost exactly like the original, it was two-story with a large open front porch, many bedrooms to accommodate guests, a large parlor, dining room and kitchen. The hotel was noted for its home cooked fare prepared by "Miss Mary", as Mrs. Stine was affectionately known. Political figures coming to court and other affairs spent the night there, and the drummers coming down on the Rex were regular patrons.

After Mr. Stine's death in 1925, Mrs. Stine continued to run the business until she sold to Mrs. Julia Gauthier, who in turn sold to John Daigle. He made some changes—screened the front porch and added another story. Mr. Daigle later sold to Cameron Hotel Corporation of New Orleans. Through the changes in ownership, Mrs. Gauthier remained the manager.

In 1944 Mr. and Mrs. Brown LeBoeuf purchased the Cameron Hotel and operated it for a while. Mrs. Margaret Faulk, Mr. LeBoeuf's sister, managed the hotel until she became ill.

The need for a hotel lessened as roads opened and more people had cars, other hotels, motels and rooming houses were available, and there were restaurants and cafes. Having survived three major hurricanes in 1915, 1918 and 1957, the old hotel still stands—vacant and aged—but filled with many glorious memories of the past.
Steed's Fish Company, Inc. is a family organization which dates back to 1904 when John R. Steed got his start in Lake Charles on Railroad Avenue with an ice box and $25 borrowed money. He later moved to Front Street where he also served as freight agent for the Borealis Rex.

The land where the company is presently located was purchased in 1934 by Mr. Steed from the Lake Charles Transportation Company and the late Adam Roux. With Frank Haneburger as manager, he opened the second shrimp shop in Cameron, the first being operated by Henry J. Pitre. Until the shop was built, the shrimp were handled on a barge. The Cameron shop was managed by C. M. Singletary from 1937 to 1940.

Earlier Thomas and Phillip had joined their father in the business in Lake Charles. After Mr. Steed's death in 1940, Phillip assumed management of the Lake Charles shop and Thomas rebuilt the Cameron shop, took over the management and has held that position since. The company bought a fleet of eight trawlers in the year 1942, and in 1952 sold them. Operations were closed in Lake Charles and the building dismantled. Some of the material was salvaged to build a freezer in Cameron.

At that time, shrimp were packed into five pound cartons and frozen. As time progressed, shrimp grading machines were installed. Shrimp were then graded into as many as twelve sizes and shipped by refrigerated transport trucks to many states and Canada.

Much damage was done to the company buildings by Hurricane Audrey, but before many months elapsed, business proceeded as usual. In 1958 an additional freezer blast room was installed, doubling the plant's freezing capacity. The old metal packing shop was torn down in 1964 and replaced with a concrete block building.

Adjacent to the shrimp shop, Steed's Ice Company, Inc. was built in 1960-61, with a capacity of sixty tons of ice daily. Fire destroyed the plant in 1968. It was rebuilt and business resumed in April 1969. The new plant has a capacity of ninety tons of ice daily. At present, the company is in the process of installing three plate freezers, enabling a freezing capacity of approximately 30,000 pounds a day.

What was probably Cameron's first ferry was owned and operated by George F. "Bud" Kelley. The ferry was located at the end of Rex Street and ran from there across the Calcasieu River. Johnson's Bayou and local residents were transported for a nominal fee; however the cost for a car was 25¢. There was no charge for crossing the school children. This ferry was used until the early 1930's.

The United States mail and supplies were carried by sailboats during the carpetbagger days following the Civil War. Regular services were es-
established with the small stern-wheeler "Harvey".

The "Harvey" was succeeded by a more beautiful lady with graceful lines and greater speed—a steamer called "Romeo", from Saginaw, Michigan. On September 11, 1901, the Romeo's whistle sounded one blast, which meant she wasn't going to land, but was coming in near the wharf to throw something off. (She would have blown three blasts if she had been going to land.) Wrapped around a stick was a copy of the Lake Charles American Press with the headlines "President McKinley shot."

The "Olga" appeared about 1902 or 1903. She was the largest schooner ever seen in this area. She boasted a gasoline motor.

In about 1905, Captain Bowie McCain brought to the Calcasieu River a new boat, the stern-wheeler "Borealis Rex", Latin for King of the North. She transported passengers, mail, groceries, lumber, supplies and the thousand and one articles the community had to buy, sell or trade. She made her rounds to Cameron three times a week from Lake Charles, and it was the accepted order of the day "to go down and meet the Rex". On Sundays the Borealis Rex carried excursion trips down the river. On these trips, there was music and dancing. The gay young blade who had not taken his girl on an excursion on the Borealis Rex, had just simply not arrived!

Old age, hurricanes and fires finally put the Rex out of commission. Even before the first highway was opened in 1931, she had ceased making her runs, and lay partially submerged at her berth in Lake Charles, a melancholy and heart-saddening wreck.

Her day is gone, and she herself is gone, and with them went a good company of men.

S-4. COTTON GIN

In the early 1900's, Dr. S. O. Carter of Creole built a cotton gin just west of Rex's Landing. Dr. Carter's brother, Joe, ran the gin which was operated by a steam engine, until he decided to go to dentistry school. The whistle off the steam engine was loaned to Bowie McCain and he put it on the Rex.

T-1. "OLD" CAMERON POST OFFICES

The first post office was established November 24, 1871 in the name of Cameron, Cameron County, Louisiana with J. D. McCall postmaster. Samuel P. Henry was appointed postmaster January 31, 1873, and the post office was located in the "Old Red Store".

Postal records show that a post office in the name of Leesburg, Cameron County, Louisiana was established June 9, 1873 with James M. Lacy postmaster; however it was discontinued December 15, 1873.

In 1880 Mrs. Harriet I. Henry, wife of Samuel, became the postmistress. The "Old Red Store" still housed the post office.
In 1887 the schooner "Ontario" furnished the only way to get to and from Cameron. It came down one day and went back the next, carrying the mail, passengers and freight. Monday, Wednesday and Friday were the regular scheduled days for the trip.

In those days one could address a letter to Mr. Boy, Creole, Louisiana, and Edras Nunez would receive it without any delay, or one to Uncle Sol, Grand Chenier and Andrew Doxey would receive it. A letter addressed to Captain Billy, Calcasieu (now Carlyss) would be received by John Drost. L. R. Henry once received a communication addressed to Mr. Lee Roy, Cameron, Louisiana.

John C. Stockton was appointed postmaster August 21, 1897 and William W. Newton, May 28, 1898.

Harriet's son, Arthur McDonald Henry, became postmaster January 6, 1901, and the post office was moved to a small building in the corner of his yard which was next door to the "Old Red Store". This would be where the large palm tree is growing just west of Kornegay's Grocery. Andrew W. Laurents was appointed postmaster June 13, 1903.

The steamer "Romeo" was the mail and passenger boat after the "Ontario" and up until 1905; then the "Borealis Rex", a stern-wheeler run by two brothers, Captain Bowie and Tom McCain, brought mail, passengers and cargo to Cameron on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The old Cameron post office that is most remembered today is the one that was torn down to build the new Police Jury building. It faced south with its west side facing the Courthouse Square. This building had been built in the southwest corner of the J. B. Clark yard in the early 1900's. His wife, Sallie Harper Clark, was appointed postmistress June 1, 1906. After Mr. Clark died, she married Frank B. Kennedy, principal of Cameron School. She continued as postmistress until 1932 when Mr. Kennedy became postmaster. The postoffice remained here until 1952 when it became necessary to secure a larger building. It was then moved to the east half of the Cameron Drug Store building. Mr. Kennedy continued as postmaster until his death and Olga F. LeBoeuf, wife of Monroe, was appointed postmistress April 30, 1956.

Hugh D. Wagner was appointed postmaster September 19, 1958, and is still serving in this capacity. In 1965 due to an increase in the volume of mail the post office was moved to its present location on Marshall Street in a building leased from W. F. "Frankie" Henry, Jr.

The first school in Cameron was a one-room wood frame structure that faced the east and was located on the Courthouse Square where the Sheriff's offices and jail are today. The old parish jail was to the left of it as you faced the school. The Gee home (now the location of Mark Richard's home) was in the rear. Its entrance was about even with the E. R. Henry home which is at the east entrance of the present courthouse. A board fence surrounded the school property, with the usual stile (steps) leading over the fence instead of a gate.
All children from Cameron and out as far as the Grunik home came to this school. All children beyond the Grunik home went to the Howard School.

On occasion the school served as a church for different religions. The Methodist minister held services every two or three months as he made his rounds all over the territory, visiting awhile in each community.

After the new school was built in 1915, this one room school was bought by Sidney DeBarge to make repairs and an addition on the Picnic house that was located just off the Courthouse Square.

T-3. CAMERON PARISH COURTHOUSE AND JAIL

The acreage on and surrounding the courthouse was acquired thus: The northern portion of the town of Cameron (formerly Leesburg) lying north of the center line of section 31 was patented from the state by Edward R. Simms September 18, 1856 and was later sold by him to Mary A. Mudd.

On April 16, 1871, shortly after the parish of Cameron was formed, Mary A. Mudd sold this tract to Phineas E. Smith, who was then the assessor of the newly formed parish. Mr. Smith came as a surveyor, stayed and was assessor of the parish for over twenty years. He donated two acres of land to the Cameron Parish Police Jury to use for a courthouse and jail site.

At the time the parish was formed, an already existing building was purchased for use as a courthouse. On February 28, 1874, the courthouse burned and all the records were lost. At that time, original instruments, after recording the document by writing the whole in longhand, were returned to the owner. Although the old records were destroyed by the fire, the people were able to bring their instruments or deeds and again have them recorded. It is interesting to note that some states, after recording, still return the original: however Louisiana is not one of them.

On September 4, 1875, Phineas E. Smith executed another donation of the same two acre tract to the Police Jury to be used for the erection of a courthouse and jail with the stipulation that if this site was ever abandoned by the Police Jury for that use, the land would revert back to him or his heirs. The courthouse now stands on the north portion of the two acre tract of land with the outer portion used as a street and called P. E. Smith Circle.

The Sunday, March 6, 1938 issue of the Lake Charles American Press reads in part, "To the casual visitor, nothing could seem more incongruous than the modernistic lines of the chastely white new courthouse, which has just been erected in Cameron at an expense of some $140,000. Surrounded as it is by the weather-beaten frame buildings which have caught the force of salt gulf winds and fogs for decades, its gleaming newness, its modern steel furniture and its style of architecture seem almost an affront to the sombre village"..."The modern stone jail with its steel cells and safety devices is a far cry from the ramshackle structure which still stands a few feet from the front door of the new building and which for many years housed the lawbreakers of Cameron Parish. Located on the second floor of the courthouse, at the rear, the new jail is easily accessible to the district courtroom. It has accommodations for 28
prisoners with special quarters for the women "guests" of the parish...  

T-4. CALEB B. JONES HOMEPLACE

The house was built about 1890 by Caleb B. Jones, husband of Mary E. Welch. Originally on the first floor was an entrance hall, a parlor, a bedroom, a dining room and kitchen and a back porch. Upstairs, there were three rooms, with an open porch on the south side. Miss Wynona Welch, the present owner, had the house remodeled in 1958; however the floor plan remains much the same except for the addition of bathrooms and the enclosure of the two open porches.

Under the eaves in the center front of the house is a heart, the signature mark of the carpenters. This was often done in those days.

A typical southern matron, "Aunt Dice", as Caleb's wife was known, was very finicky about her coffee. She never could get accustomed to the ready-made variety. So, twice a week she had some of the help to come in and roast and grind the Peaberry coffee beans. The black oil from the roasting beans penetrated the wooden walls in the kitchen so deeply, nothing could remove it. During the renovation, a new wall covering was installed. Geneva (Mrs. D. W. Griffith) tells us "Aunt Dice always served the strong, black coffee demitasse."

The house was not damaged in Hurricane Audrey, only the contents were ruined from the waist-high water.

Mr. Jones was a merchant, owning a general merchandise store. It was located where the Western Auto Associate Store is now.

T-5. DR. ISAAC BONSALL HOMEPLACE

Isaac Bonsall and his wife, Amanda Kelley, bought the property from Caleb B. Jones in 1900 and moved here from their farm east of Cameron. Most of their seven children were either grown or married at this time.

The large and spacious house had a wide center hall that ran the length of the house to a long dining room used as a greenhouse for Mrs. Bonsall's plants. There were two rooms on either side of the hall, one being a study where Dr. Bonsall kept all the paraphernalia needed by a doctor to practice medicine. A range, used for both cooking and heating, was in the center of the homey kitchen. There were galleries across the front and back of both the upper and lower floors. Mrs. Bonsall had a rose garden on the west side of the house and a large orange grove extended westward to the Caleb Jones yard.

Shortly after moving here, the Bonsalls used the house as a sort of resort hotel. Families from Lake Charles and other ports came here to enjoy the gulf breeze and good food, and for fishing and hunting. Judge Alfred M. Barbe and Judge Edmund Miller of Lake Charles and also Lawyer Absie Mitchell of Lake Charles stayed here many times when they came down on the Rex for court or other business. Many school teachers boarded here through the years.
The study mentioned above was filled with doctor books and medical journals which arrived monthly because Dr. Bonsall had studied medicine from these books while raising a large family in a community that had no doctor. Though he had no formal medical training, Dr. Bonsall was called on to doctor the sick in the area and never refused to go when someone came for him. No fee was charged; but he was usually repaid later with a turkey, a ham or a sack of corn. In 1920 he was the coroner for Cameron Parish.

After Dr. Bonsall's death in 1922, his widow remained here until her death in 1933. The heirs sold the property to their sister Annie, wife of Henry Granger. She remodeled the house and by using the same lumber converted it to a five room house. This property includes the present site of the recreation center which Mrs. Granger leased to the Cameron Optomist Club. At her death, Mrs. Granger willed the property to her brother Dewey, the present owner. The house is now rented. Mrs. Violet Murphy, another daughter of Dr. Bonsall, lives next door where the orange grove was located. The other portion of the property west to the Jones property was sold by lots.

T-5. THE "OLD HENRY HOME" (S. P. Henry Estate)

The "old place" referred to affectionately by members of the Henry family is located on a tract of land located northwest of the courthouse. S. P. Henry purchased several acres of land during the years of 1873 and 1876.

Standing on the original tract of land was an old saloon, onto which Mr. Henry added to form the building as it stands today. Besides being dignified by the change of character from saloon to home, we find it ironic that its new owner was an ordained Presbyterian minister. However, Mr. Henry never preached in Cameron as far as his family knows. Instead he worked for the government as a surveyor, and later became interested in cattle and cotton farming. He was also interested in politics and served as Speaker of the House of Representatives for several years.

The original furniture in the home was handmade, but a grandson, "Pete", informs us that S. P. Henry's daughter, Mary, traveled to Galveston to select new furniture, which was delivered by schooner. Many of the old pieces still in the house were destroyed when Hurricane Audrey struck in 1957. Other pieces were salvaged, refinished, and remain in the possession of various family members.

Several of S. P. Henry's descendants recall living in the "old place" and still think of it as home. But it is doubtful if any of them could show us which part of the house is the original saloon. Perhaps that is as it should be.

T-7. SKELLY OIL COMPANY

Skelly Oil Company was purchased from Cypress Mines in 1965 along with plants in Johnson's Bayou and Sunset, Louisiana. Raw gasoline is made from the natural gas piped from onshore wells. The residue after
the gasoline is made is piped to Michigan-Wisconsin Gas Transmission Company in Tennessee. The Skelly plant employs eight people and is headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

T-8. THOMAS E. GEE HOMEPLACE

Mark Richard's homsite was originally known as the "old Gee place". Thomas E. Gee was Clerk of Court here for thirty-three years, from 1875 to 1908. Upon his retirement, he sold to Sidney W. Sweeney. He later sold to Edward D. Sweeney, his brother.

Under the ownership of Edward D. Sweeney, the old house burned to the ground. Among the few possessions saved was an oak secretaire and it is presently in the possession of Mrs. Braxton Blake, Mr. Sweeney's great-niece.

In 1928 when Mark Richard became Clerk of Court, he purchased the property. For the first sixty-three years of Cameron Parish's existence, this property was owned by the Clerk of Court presently in office; however Mr. Richard vows and declares "the chain broke" when he retired from office.

T-9. HEBERT THERIOT HOME

The Hebert Theriot home originally was the office of the first Cameron Parish newspaper, then also called the Cameron Parish Pilot.

It also housed the switchboard for the first telephone service established in the Cameron area. This was in the year 1932 and for six years Mrs. Theriot, nee Emma Eagleson, was Cameron's sole telephone operator. About eight telephones were in service, four of these being in the courthouse.

Mrs. Theriot, back in the days when Dr. S. O. Carter was the only doctor in this area, was the keeper of the record book for all births and deaths. Dr. Carter, after completing the proper certificates, brought them to her to be recorded. Mrs. Theriot continued to do this for him until the health office was established in 1950.

Hebert Theriot was the Cameron Parish jailor and also a deputy sheriff for many, many years. In his spare time, he cut hair, charging ten cents for a haircut.

The Theriot home was constructed by Adolph Broucket, a German carpenter who also served as Justice of the Peace for this parish for many years. The wood is of heavy cypress brought in by boat from the Lake Charles area.

The house must have endured several bad storms and little damage was done even by Hurricane Audrey in 1957. Mrs. Theriot explains that the house was protected by big buildings, and the water level inside the house reached only about three feet. A telephone sitting on a table didn't even get wet! This in an area where buildings were completely demolished or swept from their foundations!
The first family to occupy the house was Mr. and Mrs. William Harper. After the death of Mr. Harper, Mrs. Harper became Mrs. Hebert Theriot, and resided in the home, even after her second husband's death at the age of 92, for a total of 67 years. At this writing, Mrs. Theriot, now 93 years old, is living in her daughter's home, but the old home is still owned by Mrs. Theriot and her family, and with its history of durability, will be in the family for many more years.

T-10. CAMERON'S FIRST CEMETERY

The first cemetery in Cameron was located behind the Hebert Theriot homplace on Henry property. It was started in the early 1800's when very few people lived here in Leesburg, as it was called then. The area is just a few yards southwest of the parish courthouse, under oak trees, which are probably more than one hundred years old.

Hurricane Audrey did extensive damage to this cemetery, leaving only two markers and graves. The oldest graves are all in one plot, being those of Mrs. Geneora Griffith Gonzales, born in 1850 and died in 1879, and her two children--Emanuel and Francisco, who also died in 1879 following a yellow fever epidemic. The next oldest is that of Jeff Davis Harper, born in 1846 and buried in 1916. Others known buried there are: Tom and Molly Marshall, Sylvester Bonsall, Dr. and Mrs. Isaac Bonsall, Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Wolfe, Miss Ezola Zero, Ben Chadwell and Guy Chadwell.

In approximately 1946, the skeleton of an airplane pilot still fastened to his seat belt, was found on Broussard's Beach. His unidentified remains were buried here.

The last person to be buried here was Mr. Greer, an accountant who lived in Cameron and did income tax services for the public. He died in 1950.

T-11. RED STORE

Samuel P. Henry bought the old Red Store from John McCall in the fall of 1872. At this time the store sold only the bare necessities of life--coffee, sugar, lard, flour, potatoes, shoes, cloth and farming implements. Mr. McCall's journal in 1870 showed that cloth sold for 5¢ a yard, salt meat 5¢ a pound, but kerosene was 75¢ a gallon. Only people of means or the so-called "big bugs" used kerosene lamps, the poor people used candles or went to bed at dark. Butter was bought by the merchant in 50 pounds pails. Can you imagine a 50 pound pail of butter sitting out on a shelf or a counter top on a hot day in July?

The shortening of this era was hog lard and it came in 300 pound cans. Flour was in 150 pound wooden barrels; sugar, in 360 pound wooden barrels; and coffee, in 180 pound sacks, and of course unparched. Many people bought their provisions by the sack or barrel from the store if they had large families and could get that amount of credit. Those who bought only small portions had to have it weighed out by the merchant. These scales usually were at the end of the counter. Next to them was an enormous roll of paper with a ball of string suspended from the ceiling.
in a container that kept it feeding out smoothly to the busy merchant as he reached out to get the single strand hanging down. Lard was measured out in special pasteboard containers about two inches deep and about the length of a ruler. Another container was turned down on top and paper placed over this.

"Hardtack" was the only bread that could be bought, and it came in big sacks. Crackers, as large as today's slice of bread, came in large tinfoil containers and were sold loose. Candy came in 25 pound pails and of course was placed in large glass jars on the counter. At the old Red Store, candy was seldom sold. It was usually given away to the customer's children.

The supplies for the store came by sailing schooners from Galveston. At the height of this period there were several hundred sailing vessels operating out of Lake Charles carrying lumber to Port Isabel and Brownsville and bringing back supplies for merchants all along the coast and Lake Charles. The mouth of the Calcasieu River then had only about six feet of water over a sandbar bottom and these schooners would have to tie up at the bend in the river and wait for the tide to come in and the wind to change. Sometimes there were so many schooners waiting, one could almost step from one boat to another from what is now Steed's dock all the way down the river to the Trosclair dock.

Cotton was the main cash crop, so the farmers paid the merchants when the cotton was sold in the fall. The merchant paid the wholesale companies at the end of each year for the materials he had bought.

S. P. Henry ran the store until his death in 1902. Then C. F. Henry, his son and the father of "Pete" and the other Henry children took the Red Store and its contents as part of his inheritance. They ran it for a few years, and then S. P.'s brother, McDonald, ran it until 1915.

During World War I the store was run by W. L. Harrington. This marked the end of the era of the "old Red Store" for when "Pete" Henry returned from the war he took over the old Jones store, which was where the Western Auto Associate Store is today.

U-1. THE PURE ICE COMPANY

The Pure Ice Company was built in 1935 by William C. Cezan for the purpose of providing the Cameron households with ice for their ice boxes. Also large amounts of ice were used by the shrimp boats and shrimp packing houses to preserve their catches.

Three years ago a shrimp freezer with a quick freeze method was installed. The plant, managed by Collise Dupont, makes seven tons of ice every twenty-four hours. It is presently owned by Mrs. William Parkins.

Before the plant was built, ice was trucked in from Lake Charles. In earlier years, the ice was covered with sawdust, packed in boxes and brought down on the Rex.
U-2. CAMELON FERRY NO. 1

When the Cameron-Hackberry highway opened in the early 1930's, the state took over the ferry operations and contracted the furnishing of supplies and labor to Frank E. Welch of Cameron. His two tugs—Dixie and Joe Wilson—serviced the eight-car ferry. The old ferry belonging to George F. "Bud" Kelley was retired and he went to work for Mr. Welch on the state ferry. Later the state assumed full responsibility for the ferry.

U-3. CHER-AMI SEAFOOD COMPANY, INC.

During 1945 the Morgan City Packing Company established a shrimp shed. This business operated until 1951 and was then sold to Cameron Seafood Company. In 1969 the company changed from a partnership into a corporation and is presently doing business as Cher-Ami Seafood Company, Inc. with Tony Cheramie, President.

U-4. CIVIL WAR BATTLE

A battle was fought in the Calcasieu River between two battleships; one a yankee, the other a confederate. The union gunboat won the battle; but before they could stop the rebs, they threw everything of value to the enemy—including a safe—overboard. The yankees tried for days to recover the safe from the river, but to no avail. For all we know, the confederate treasure is still lying there on the river's bed, just waiting to be claimed.

U-5. CIVIL WAR HOSPITAL AND CEMETERY

During the Civil War, according to Mrs. Edna Bertrand, her great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis LeBoeuf, and their 14 year old daughter Orellia lived on the northeast side of what is now Monkey Island and where only one oak tree remains. The yankees took over their house, ran out the family, and used it for a hospital. The dead were buried on the premises, using white pickets from the fence to make crosses.

U-6. AIRPORT

The airport is located on property belonging to J. A. Davis and was originally set up for use by the menhaden company fish spotter planes in the early 1940's; however private planes occasionally use the field. It is not a regular airport, and permission is required for landing or parking a plane.

U-7. GULF MENHADEN COMPANY

The first menhaden plant to locate in Cameron was owned by Gilbert P. Smith of Moss Point, Mississippi and was located on Monkey Island. Several years later Gilbert's brother, Harvey Smith of Beaufort, North
Carolina moved in and built the present Gulf Menhaden Company plant. It opened for business in 1950. During the years that followed, Mr. Smith added bunk houses for the boat crews, a large kitchen to prepare and serve meals to employees and houses both at the plant location and in the center of town for the transient office personnel and factory workers to live in during the Cameron fishing season.

The menhaden products of oil, meal and solubles have a wide variety of uses in the production of other products. The oil has multiple uses, some of which are the base for soap, paint, linoleum and for various vitamin compounds. The dried meal is the pulverized scrap which remains after the oil has been removed and is used in manufacturing feed for farm animals and poultry. The water from separating tanks is processed into a thick paste called solubles and is used as an addition to commercial fertilizers and poultry feeds.

U-3. CAMERON FERRY NO. 2

In the latter part of 1954, the "big" ferry on which 15 cars could park was installed on the east and west banks of the ship channel. This ferry serviced automobiles going to Holly Beach. The ferry from Monkey Island to Holly Beach was discontinued. At last, Cameron residents had only one ferry to cross to get to the west end of the parish instead of two. In September 1964, the 50 car ferry was put into operation.

U-9. COW PEN

In the general area of Cameron Ferry No. 2, there was a huge cow pen many years ago which was used to corral cattle and horses for loading or unloading schooners and the Rex. Cattle buyers also assembled here to look over the stock.

V-1. THE BARGE TERMINAL, INC.

The first loading and unloading facilities for offshore oil rigs were established in 1956 when C. A. Rogers and W. E. Guthrie formed the Cameron Barge Terminal on property leased from J. A. Davis. After 13 years of operation, they sold in 1969 to Larry Taylor, George Wilkerson, J. B. Blake, Jr., Peter C. Henry, Sr. and Peter C. Henry, Jr. The pipe yard now operates under the name of The Barge Terminal, Inc.

V-2. LOUISIANA MENHADEN COMPANY, INC.

The Louisiana Menhaden Company, as most of us know it, was originally owned by the Gulf Fish Products and was operated by the Louisiana Menhaden Company. The plant, built in 1946 by A. M. Mutersbaugh, a Lake Charles contractor, was placed in Cameron with the help and encouragement of the late J. W. Doxey.

At the time the plant was constructed, there were no roads to the site, so workers went to and from work by boat from Cameron. Materials and equipment were brought in by barge and the land was built up out of the marsh with shell, concrete and pilings. This plant was the second
one in Cameron, there being one on Monkey Island owned by Gilbert P. Smith.

Most of the present buildings were the original ones with only a few additions, including a larger scraphouse, made. Because of the difficulty in obtaining supplies, an office was established in Lake Charles in 1947. It was moved to Holmwood in 1958. At first the scrap was bagged in Cameron and transported by trucks, but now it is moved by covered trucks, loose, to Holmwood and stored in large warehouses and shipped by railcars. Oil and solubles are moved by barge and stored in storage tanks in West Lake, Louisiana.

The changes in time brought changes in the operations of the plant and the boats. More modernized equipment was installed causing a decrease in the number of people employed. During the operational season of April to October, two or three fish spotting planes are used to locate fish for the boats and assist them in making their catch.

Up until his death in 1969, E. W. Swindell was the plant manager and superintendent; then the operational responsibilities were divided among Adam Kershaw, plant manager; Ray Dimas, office manager; and H. L. Dickens, vice-president and general manager, with Jack T. Styron as president.

W-1. CAMERON PARISH COURTHOUSE to view time capsule.

W-2. CAMERON PARISH COURTHOUSE ANNEX

The one-story brick annex houses the police jury's meeting room and conference room, the jury president and treasurer's offices and a secretary's office.

Hackett and Bailey of Lake Charles were the architects and Dyson Lumber and Supply Company of Cameron was the general contractor. The building was designed so that a story could be added at a later date if desired.

The grand opening was held Monday, May 6, 1968, several months after the building was completed.

Two decorative features in the annex are the ceramic overlay map of Cameron Parish in the meeting room and the seal of Cameron Parish in the terrazzo floor at the front entrance.

X. WALK TO RECREATION CENTER FOR CARS.

Y. ODDS AND ENDS

During reconstruction period following the civil war, many people obtained salt by boiling gulf waters in a big black kettle in their back yards.
Fresh meat was bought off a wagon with a big meat box on it. This wagon came around once a week and it was always a fight to see whether the housewife or the flies got the meat first.

Many old schooner captains located in Cameron and raised families. Some of these families are the Quinns, the Howards, Kelleys, Hansens, Sturleses, Smiths, Jessens, Welch, Rutherfords and many more.

Cotton was the main crop in Cameron. Few people had cattle, but those that did had hundreds of them. A cow and calf was worth about $12.50 in 1900. A good 700 or 800 pound steer sold for 5¢ a pound, but the prevailing price was around 3¢ a pound.

J. A. Davis related an interesting bit of medical history concerning being vaccinated for smallpox by Dr. Isaac Bonsall. Smallpox was a dreaded disease that appeared often in a community and sometimes in "epidemic" proportions. Since the vaccine was so scarce, the doctor only vaccinated one child in a family. When the vaccination "took" or "festered" the next child was scratched on the upper arm and some of the secretion from the vaccination was put in the deep scratch and when his vaccination took, this continued until the whole family was vaccinated. Mr. Davis received his first smallpox vaccination in this manner.

THE NED HARVEY EPISODE, researched and written by H. Ward Fontenot

The era of the American Frontier was over by the turn of the century. That is except for those areas which for some reason remained inaccessible. One such area was lower Cameron Parish. The vast marsh had been a barrier to the full force of the 20th century. For instance, neither the telegraph nor the railroad had penetrated to the ridge settlements of Cameron Parish.

In 1925, parts of Cameron Parish were as distant and exotic as Dodge City or Cheyenne had been fifty years before. On the scene arrived a desperado, named Ned Harvey, who could have played the part of the villain in any western novel.

He aptly came from Texas and had brought with him rumors of foul deeds. The brutal slaying of a Negro family in Orange, Texas had been attributed to him. He had been tried for murder twice. Like many of the residents of Cameron in 1925, he was always armed.

His killer instinct was demonstrated one day in Pete Henry's General Merchandise Store. Following a tussle with Ray Peveto, he went for his coat hung on the wall, where he kept his gun. The proprietor of the store grabbed Harvey before he could free his gun. All who were there said that this saved Peveto's life. Certainly, Ned Harvey was a man to be watched carefully.

Harvey moved out to Johnson's Bayou and was trapping for a living. He lived in a little village of trapper's camps on grounds leased by Rosenthal-Brown Fur Company, and trapped for the company. He stayed with an old couple, Adonile Schexnayder and his wife, who cooked for the camp. Mrs. Schexnayder and Harvey did not have much to say to each other because she could not speak English and he could not speak French. But apart from
that, she was scared of Harvey and probably appreciated the language barrier.

The superintendent of the camp was A. A. Byrd. He and a trapper named John Springer lived apart from the others in the superintendent's cabin. Byrd had made Harvey angry as a result of trapping assignments and there had been hard words muttered. But Byrd was not impressed by Harvey's ugly reputation and could not be bothered with such things while managing a trapping camp.

Another trapper who was no friend of Harvey's was Otto Sykes, a hardened individual with a criminal record and a reputation for being mean. He and Harvey treated each other with a mutual coldness.

Finally becoming enraged with Superintendent Byrd, Harvey quit the trapping camp and disappeared for a few days. He had not taken his clothes and other things, however.

On the night of January 1, 1925, Harvey showed up at the Schexnayder cabin. Harvey took his place at the supper table with Schexnayder, and a trapper named Willie Marceaux. The latter two finished and left the table to tend to some chores.

Mrs. Schexnayder had noticed that Harvey had taken his shotgun out on arriving that evening, cleaned it and left it laying across the dresser. It bothered her.

When Harvey had finished with supper, he got up from the table without a word. When he came out of the bedroom he was carrying his shotgun. He told Mrs. Schexnayder, "The supper was good", and walked out into the dark.

At the superintendent's cabin occupied by Byrd and Springer, the two trappers were still eating. They did not hear Harvey walk up outside. They did not notice the muzzle of the shotgun press against the screen when the firearm was leveled at the table.

The first blast killed Springer immediately! (Those who investigated found his mouth full of food.) The shot had blinded Byrd. He fell away from the table and on his hands and knees groped about on the floor. He did not suffer long, for Harvey stepped into the cabin and at close range, shot him fatally.

"No, it can't be!", Otto Sykes must have thought as he dashed out of his cabin and ran toward the sound of the shots. But there was Ned Harvey coming out of the superintendent's cabin with his shotgun. Sykes stopped short, but he was close enough for Harvey to see him by the light of the lantern that Sykes was carrying. Harvey told him, "I want you, too." Sykes dropped the lantern and ran for his cabin. With no time to find a gun and load it, he ran behind the cabin and flung himself into the deep, marsh grass. Harvey ran up to the cabin and looked in. He then went around to the back. Sykes held his breath as Harvey poked about the rear of the cabin and then peered off into the darkness in Sykes' direction. Harvey abruptly began running toward the Schexnayder cabin.
Mrs. Schexnayder, too, had heard the shots. Feeling that the worst had happened, she ran out of the rear door and crawled underneath the cabin. She was there when Harvey arrived and ran into the cabin shouting, "Come see what I've done! I've killed 'em! I've killed 'em!" Mrs. Schexnayder understood enough English to understand those words and she later repeated them at the trial.

Harvey now thought of escape and ran into the night to a nearby farmhouse where a boat could be obtained. He reached Texas before daylight and headed for Orange. He told his brother, Jennings Harvey, about the killing and then surrendered to the Orange County Sheriff. He did not oppose extradition and was back in Louisiana to face trial within a month.

The trial was marked with much sensationalism. Daily accounts were delivered to Lake Charles by airplane and found their way onto the front pages of newspapers all over Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas. Prosecuting was District Attorney John J. Robira, and Assistant District Attorney Sam Jones, later to become Governor of the state. Assisting in the prosecution was a special, hired attorney, Griffin T. Hawkins, who was noted for his trial ability. On the side of the defense was A. R. Mitchell and his job must have seemed rather hopeless.

At the trial Harvey concocted a story of being attacked by the two men and killing them in self-defense. The powder-burnt screen door and the finding of food in John Springer's mouth made Harvey's story rather foolish. The jury found him guilty of the murder of John Springer (he would have been tried separately for the murder of A. A. Byrd) and Judge Thomas F. Porter sentenced him to be hung by the neck until dead!

A scaffold was constructed on the courthouse square and Harvey was brought from Lake Charles to Cameron on the morning of his hanging. The Borealis Rex was packed with curious sightseers coming from Lake Charles. Harvey was brought by speedboat for precautionary purposes. It was rumored that friends from Texas might assist him to escape.

Harvey strode onto the scaffold at the appointed hour and stepped out upon the trapdoor. With the rope around his neck, he looked at Sheriff John E. Miller and said, "You're a good man. I want you to spring the trap." The sheriff looked at the handle and hesitated, Deputy Murphy Hebert saw the hesitation and evidently felt that the handle had to be pulled. The trapdoor opened and for Ned Harvey, 49 years old, this world had ended.

The hanging of Ned Harvey was the last public execution to take place in Cameron Parish.