More Land Donated for Chalmette Park

By PIE DUFOR

The recent donation by the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation of 11 acres of the Chalmette Battlefield to the Department of the Interior brings the total of land donated for the expansion of Chalmette Historical Park to 24 1/4 acres, or more than one-third of the 66 acres of battlefield land owned by the Kaiser Corporation.

You may remember that a long fight was waged from 1952 through 1957 to have the 66 acres of land which Kaiser owned turned over to the Department of Interior for incorporation in the National Park Service's development of the historical battlefield where Andrew Jackson defeated the British, Dec. 23, 1814—Jan. 8, 1815.

Leaders in this fight included Mrs. Edwin X. de Verges and the Daughters of 1812; the Chalmette National Historical Park Association; Edwin Roy, editor of the St. Bernard Voice; Mrs. Martha G. Robinson and the Louisiana Landmarks Council; Gen. Edward Bres and Congressman F. Edward Hebert.

The 66 acres which separate the Chalmette National Cemetery and the Chalmette Historical Park were long a bone of contention. Patriotic organizations had tried in vain for years to get the Louisiana Legislature to appropriate the money with which the State Parks Commission could acquire the land.

The climax in the struggle came in 1952 when the Kaiser Corporation bought the land from the Southern Railway, with the expressed purpose of using it for further expansion of the plant which is situated immediately below the National Cemetery. Such expansion would have wrecked forever plans for the Chalmette Battlefield. It was