Added distinction is contributed to the city of Lafayette through the Junior Catholic Daughters of America unit, since that national organization had its beginning in this community on August 24, 1926.

Three of the leaders in Catholic spiritual endeavor, recognizing the need of organization of a youth group for spiritual and recreational guidance, presented their plans to Court Immaculata No. 53, Catholic Daughters of America. Founders of the movement were Mrs. Emile E. Soulier, Sr., Mrs. Fannie Richl and Miss Odeide Mouton, now Reverend Mother Odeide Mouton, a madame of the Sacred Heart sisters, who is now in St. Louis, Mo.

These three zealous women served as first counsellors of Junior Catholic Daughter troops. Mrs. George Lessley, as grand regent of the Senior Catholic Daughter organization, welcomed the plans for the junior group, and the court subsequently adopted and sponsored the first Junior Catholic Daughter troop.

The Juniors then became the most important work of the senior court, working with the motto: "Love God, serve others, live nobly and be useful."

Other persons who have served as chairman of the Junior movement in this city have been Mrs. Emile Soulier, Sr., Mrs. George Lessley, Mrs. A. N. Boucher, Mrs. E. P. Petitin, Mrs. Caye Nelson, Mrs. O. J. Ory, Mrs. T. J. Mires and Mrs. Whitney C. Bourg, Sr., with Mrs. Howard L. Judice as current chairman of the juniors.

Troops have participated in all patriotic drives such as war bonds, salvage, stamp drives, Crippled Children's drives.

They have followed projects which involve the visitation of the sick and special endeavors are directed toward the children of St. Mary's Home as gifts of candy, ice cream and clothing are often contributed by the troops for these young ones.

Clothing has been shipped from the Juniors to the needy and the Juniors have participated in the "CARE" program with a contribution of over $80.00.

Another worthy project undertaken by the Juniors has been the aiding of seminarians studying for the Catholic priesthood, many of whom have come to this country from foreign lands.

Since organizing here in Lafayette, the Juniors have become a powerful national organization working for the good of not only the immediate community projects, but for national and international projects as well, and with its foremost objective, the spiritual welfare of its members.

The original forest area of the United States is estimated at 520 million acres—nearly half the country's land area.