Welcome to Baton Rouge!

If you're a newcomer to Baton Rouge, knowing about some of the unique personality traits of the city may help you understand it quickly.

You'll discover as soon as you look for housing that Baton Rouge has no west side.

Millenia ago, some human came ashore on the first high ground on the east bank of the Mississippi and discovered a safe retreat from the mighty river and the marshy land to the west and south. No one knows what he called it, but the Indians who used the site for centuries were calling it "Istrouma" when the first European settlers arrived. "Istro"ma" translates to "Red Stick" and, according to local custom, identified a tall dead cypress tree with a reddish cast, a highly visible landmark in the virgin wilderness of green. The first French explorers and trappers used the landmark to rendezvous on, calling it "Baton Rouge"—the French translation of "Red Stick."

Since one of the mightiest rivers in the world curves around the site, all the growth from the originary settlement was forced to the south, east and north, forming the top-sided city of Baton Rouge. The river is very much a part of Baton Rouge. From carrying a few Indian and French trappers' canoes, through a phase of heavily laden rafts and steamboats, to the barges, tugs and ocean-going freighters that crowd the river today. It has always been one of the major economic factors in the city's life. Even though Baton Rouge is almost a hundred miles upriver, it is one of the top five ports in the United States, in most years handling more traffic than San Francisco.

And yet, because of the high protective levees, many Baton Rougians go from year to year without catching a glimpse of the Mississippi unless they are driving west or traveling by plane.

Baton Rouge has more fun with politics, football and food than other American cities. Being the center of state government here is more exciting than in most states because Louisianans really get involved in their politics—a legacy from Huey Long.

Another legacy from that controversial political genius is the fanatical interest in the doings of the LSU Tigers football team. Long set out to create a team the whole state could identify with and it worked. You may be startled to find that a native who was educated at an Ivy League school or abroad will be indistinguishable from an LSU alum who in his support of the Tigers.

One great advantage for a newcomer at a Tiger Stadium game is being able to indulge in an hour or two of primal screaming to relieve all of your tensions. Certainly no one will pay the least attention.

The disadvantages are the possibility of being haggled over by total strangers, pummeled by overexcited fans and the very rare but definitely eerie experience of being surrounded by 78,869 totally silent people with the Tigers are definitely losing a game.

Incidentally, there are only four Louisiana cities — New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport and Lafayette — with populations larger than the Saturday night crowd in Tiger Stadium. The entire population of Lake Charles will fit comfortably within the Stadium with about a thousand seats left over — for the press.

Even if you hate football, you must go to one Tiger home game, just for the experience.

The Baton Rouge social season begins with LSU football and ends with Mardi Gras in late January or early February. Almost all parties are given in these months. Crawfish boils make another short whirl in the spring. But all 14 percent of the crawfish in the world are eaten in south Louisiana. Try them — you might like them. They're boiled with corn.

(Continued on Page 11)

AERIAL SHOT OF BATON ROUGE

Baton Rouge statistics

POPULATION
1960 —— 230,063
1970 —— 285,167
1978 —— 356,562
1979 —— 352,588
1980 —— 385,900
1981 —— 386,184
1982 —— 376,479
1983 —— 386,804

AREA
472.1 square miles (Parish)
73.4 square miles (City Limits)

ALTITUDE
83 feet above sea-level

TEMPERATURE
January minimum mean — 42° F.
July maximum mean — 92° F.

PRECIPITATION
Annual mean —— 54.46 inches

WATER
Baton Rouge Water Works (Soft water from artesian wells)

HOSPITALS
5 major hospitals

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
100 elementary, junior & middle schools, & senior high
14 educational centers
7 vocational centers

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS
36 in Diocese of Baton Rouge
17 in East Baton Rouge Parish

PRIVATE SCHOOLS
36

UNIVERSITIES
(3) Louisiana State University and Southern University

ELECTRIC POWER
Gulf States Utilities Company
Dixie Electric

NATURAL GAS
Gulf States Utilities
Louisiana Gas Service Co.

TELEPHONE
South Central Bell Telephone Co.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS
Morning Advocate, Sunday Advocate
State Times

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS
Catholic Commentator
Community Leader
Scotland Press

RADIO
14 radio stations in the area:
WFMF, 15, WJBO, WLCS, WQXV
WTOL, WXOK, WYRK

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Credits

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Louisiana is only civil law state

Louisiana is the only state in the Union which is a "civil law" state. Others are "common law" states.

Described briefly, civil law is_code law or written law; common law is based on unwritten or case law. Common law, having its inception in England, became the governing force in those states settled by the English.

But Louisiana was first settled by the French and Spanish, two civil law countries which derived their judicial precepts from Roman law. By the time of the Louisiana Purchase, the civil law system was so entrenched that it failed to substitute common law failed. Over the years, however, Louisiana's legal system has been influenced by Anglo-American common law.

The Louisiana Civil Code, drafted in 1844, is made up of systematic bodies of law composed of broad, general principles which are the primary source to which lawyers must resort in reaching their decisions. Under common law, cases are decided and statutes are interpreted on the basis of prior interpretations and rulings of the courts.

In reality, the distinctions between civil law and common law have blurred somewhat, and in Louisiana today, lawyers cite previously decided cases to the courts and the judges often rely on court interpretations of the law in prior cases.

Louisiana has parishes

Louisiana is the only state in the nation with parishes instead of counties. Originally, there were 11 ecclesiastical units (Roman Catholic) set up within governmental districts by Spanish provisional Gov. O'Reilly in 1699 and 1700. As Louisiana developed, it was found the districts were too large for effective government on the local level, and smaller religious divisions were more suitable to the sparsely populated territory.

As a result, when Louisiana became a state, the term "parish" was taken over with the name of the region to which it had applied under the church. However, the Catholic Church has retained its designation of parishes (districts) in which a number of churches are grouped for administrative purposes.

In 1865, the Legislative Council, the governing body of the Territory of Orleans at that time, divided the area into 12 counties Acadian, Attakapas, Concordia, German Coast, Iberia, Lafayette, Natchitoches, Opelousas, Orleans, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Rapides. All but Attakapas and the German Coast still are in use as names of parishes.

During the parish elections and for the imposition of taxes. Both counties and parishes were created by the Constitution of 1845. Gradually, the term "parishes" also was continued to facilitate certain elections and for the imposition of taxes. Both counties and parishes were created by the Constitution of 1812.

Gratually, the term "county" was dropped and the Constitution of 1845 makes no reference to counties. Future constitutions refer to governmental subdivisions as parishes.

Today Louisiana, unlike the other 49 states, has 64 parishes, reflecting its strong Catholic flavor, particularly in the deep southern sections.

Louisiana has another government entity the police jury system. Until fairly recently, all parish governing bodies were called police juries, with members elected from wards. In other states, the police jury counterpart is a board of county commissioners, county judge, county board of supervisors, county court or some other like name.

The police jury origin also is found in early Louisiana history. The governing body of the parish in 1805 was the county judge and the justices of the peace. Not long after that, it became the habit of the county judge to appoint 12 local inhabitants to serve with

Baton Rouge statistics

(Continued from Page 2)

TELEVISION

Four local stations in reception area.

ABC (CH. 2), CBS (CH. 9), NBC (CH. 33), and PBS (CH. 27), and Cablevision available in most areas.

CENTROPLEX COMPLEX

Theaters 12,000

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LIBRARIES

Main - 7711 Goodwood Blvd.

Branches - 9

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Country Clubs - 5

Golf Courses - 5 public and 5 private.

Skiing - 3

Bowling lanes - 3

Movie theaters - 10 (several with multiple screens).

Drive-ins - 1

Mini-golf courses - 2

Zoo - 1

Amusement parks - 1

Public recreation facilities

Parks - 114 acres

Recreation centers - 34

Softball & baseball fields - 134

The history of Baton Rouge began with the fall of New Orleans and the startling change in the Mississippi River. Baton Rouge has since lived under several flags and four names.

The seven governments that have held sway over Baton Rouge include France, England, Spain, Louisiana, the Florida Republic, the Confederate States and the United States.

In 1845, the name of Baton Rouge was changed to Diron d'Artaque. He received a grant from the Company of the Indies, who had control of Louisiana at that time, which included Baton Rouge. His attempt to change the name to Diron was unsuccessful. However, the first Mass celebrated at Baton Rouge will be remembered in connection with Diron.

During the period of French rule, the Jesuit Father, Pierre Xavier de Chavevoix, on his way from Quebec to New Orleans, landed at D'Artaque's plantation and celebrated Mass on New Year's Day in 1772.

In 1845, the name of Baton Rouge was changed to Diron d'Artaque. France, England, Spain, Louisiana, the Florida Republic, the Confederate States and the United States.

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Louisiana names might seem strange

By SMILEY ANDERS

If a newcomer to the Baton Rouge area is outside of
Louisiana, there's likely to be a
little confusion at first over some of the unique names found in this
region.

For instance, there's the common name "Hibbert" that happens to
be pronounced "A-Bear-
And the name "Theriot" that comes out "Terry-O-
And many more.

Such as "Dellinieux", pronounced as the letter "W", "Donjouenu", pronounced "DO-MAN-Įau", and "Laperejouenu" pronounced "LAP-PUH-NAY-
Not to mention the rivers - "Alchafaizas", pronounced "al-sha-FAHZ-
"Albani-Funf-Je" and "Pelux-

The names come from French, Spanish, Indian, German and other roots, and reflect the area's
bilingualism of cultures.

To aid the new residents, there's a little book, distributed by the
Baton Rouge Area Chamber of
Commerce, that makes speaking "Baton Rouge" a lot easier.

It's a pronunciation guide, and
it has helped thousands of new
residents master some of the
more difficult names of places
and people in this area.

It was the brainchild of two
announcers, who worked for
WJBO back in 1946. It was after
the war, and announcers Ralph
Sims and Bob Scarce noticed
that a lot of the new announcers
here had trouble with the names.

To help the newcomers in
the radio business, they typed up a
list of difficult words. The grateful
radio people wanted more, so
they mimeographed the list, then
stapled it into a little booklet.

The booklet was used for years
around the station, and Sims and
Scarce moved on to new jobs.

Then, in 1958, Sims, in public
relations for a local developer,
included the mention to the book
to Chamber of Commerce president
Harvey Posner at a Rotary Club
meeting.

From that conversation came
the idea to have the pronunciation
guide printed and distributed by
the chamber. Sims got back
together with Scarce, a sportscaster
for WAFB-TV, and with others
they added new names to the little
publication to come up with the
booklet of names and
pronunciations. Artist Pete Houck
distributed some clever cartoons to
the project, and the booklet took
shape.

Several business firms have
sponsored the publication, but
in recent years it has been
sponsored by Fidelity National Bank,
where Sims was senior vice
president before his retirement.

Sims maintains interest in the
project, collecting possible
names for inclusion in the booklet
and supervising periodic revisions.

Historical Society

The Foundation for Historical
Louisiana, Inc. was founded in
1965 as a private, nonprofit
organization dedicated to historic
preservation.

Foundation headquarters, The
Bailey House, at 900 North Boule-
vard in the Beauregard Town His-
toric District is a classic revival
cottage circa 1845. The building is
owned privately, but generously
on loan to the Foundation and its
membership of 1500 persons.

The purpose of the Foundation is
to promote the preservation of
buildings, sites, and objects
significant to our heritage, and to
encourage an awareness of this heri-
tag through educational programs.

Newcomers are mostly wel-
come: For membership and fur-
ther information, call 357-2464.

Victor J. Ehr, executive vice
president of the Baton Rouge
Area Chamber of Commerce, said
the book has received a "fantastic
reception from newcomers
since its issuance. The chamber
distributes the book. (There's a
25-cent charge for every copy
over one).

"Every convention that comes
to town wants copies of the publi-
cation," Ehr said. "We get letters
from all over the country from
different people who have heard
about it and want a copy.

Newcomers to the area, people
who visit here on business,
are among the biggest users. And
we send copies to radio and
TV stations for their new an-
nouncers."

So far Leonce Gaudet of
Hazebruck, France, was been the
most distant person writing about the book. He said he had
noted the name Gaudet, pro-
nounced "goh-day," and wanted
more information about the or-
gin of the name in Louisiana.

There was also the letter from
radio-TV humorist Henry Morgan,
who said he appreciated being
sent a copy of the book, but
had noticed that one name
was left out of it: Baton Rouge.

The red-faced publishers, in the
very next edition, included a new
name - one pronounced "bat n'
ROOZH.

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222-2025
State government in Baton Rouge

BY CAPITOL NEWS BUREAU

The 34-story State Capitol which dominates the Baton Rouge skyline is the seat of Louisiana government where politics is among the most colorful in the nation.

The nation's tallest Capitol was built more than 56 years ago by the state's most famous governor, Huey Long, who is buried on its grounds beneath his larger-than-life statue.

No tour of the ornate Art Deco building would be complete without a visit to the main floor hallway outside the present House speaker's office where Long was fatally shot in 1935. The site is marked by a plaque.

GOV. DAVE TREEN

Senators and representatives

By Capitol News Bureau

Although Louisiana is traditionally a Democratic state, most of its congressmen are among the more conservative members of Congress.

Almost 85 percent of the state's 1.98 million voters are registered Democrats, and about 9 percent are Republicans. Registered Democrats total 1,677,408 and Republicans, 171,276. Yet two of the state's eight congressmen, as well as its governor, are Republicans. Both U.S. senators from Louisiana are Democrats.

The state's delegation, once among the most powerful in Congress because of the state's tendency to re-elect experienced lawmakers to one term after another, has lost some of its clout as every seat — except the one held by Sen. Russell Long — changed hands at least once during the 1970s.

That tradition suffered a further blow in 1980 when the Republican Party gained control of the Senate and Long, a 36-year veteran, lost the chairmanship of the powerful Senate Finance Committee. But he is still considered one of its most influential members.

Long is the son of the late governor and senator Huey Long. The state's junior senator is J. Bennett Johnston of Shreveport. He has been in Washington for 11 years and sits on the Appropriations, Budget, Energy and Natural Resources committees.

Baton Rouge and parishes to the east are located in Louisiana's 6th Congressional District represented by W. J. Henson Moore, Republican.

The 6th District includes most of East Baton Rouge Parish, all of (Continued on Page 10)

If you're new in Baton Rouge, you need the help of someone who has been around for a while.

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Welcome (Continued from Page 2)

potatoes, and onions and served in heaps on newspaper-covered tables, with cold beer. They’re spicy and hearty and the feasts usually use a garden hose to wash their hands up to the elbows.

Speaking of food, the food in Baton Rouge is simply magnificently cooking it and talking about it is a favorite pastime. Small mom-and-pop restaurants produce meals that shame some famous restaurants in other parts of the country. The coffee takes some getting used to. After you’ve lived here a few years, though you swear you’ve never been adjusted to the stout local brew, you’ll find coffee in any other part of the country as anemic as to be undrinkable.

where else could you find eight-year-old boys arguing about the best way to cook the fish they just caught? And appealing to their FATHERS for arbitration? The richness of the culinary heritage of Louisiana is a state that often becomes a hobby. The resulting meals are delightful. With any luck at all, you’ll have some neighbors with this hobby.

Baton Rouge is a city of fabulous flowers. There’s color all year. Crape myrtles and day lilies bloom even in the fierce summer heat. Camellias flower through the winter. When it’s time for football parties, the countryside and every road way are ablaze with wild flowers in purple and gold — LSU colors. No one seems to know it’s that’s just serendipity or if the LSU colors were chosen because the wildflowers turn the area those colors in the fall.

Easter week is breathtaking; even nature seems to pause. Every area of the city comes alive with shrubs and hedges of azalea blooming all at once. Wisteria drips from the trees. Japanese magnolias, yellow jasmine and fruit trees burst into flower. Baton Rouge all dressed up in its Easter best makes just driving to work a joy.

A few caveats — if you don’t have an umbrella, buy one. And don’t alter plans because it’s raining. It’s one of the things Louisians whose right you’ll never get anything done.

Don’t fall on the floor laughing if it snows and you see adults running around throwing snowballs like kids. After all, a fifty-year-old here may have seen snow only a half dozen times and still has a lot of snowball throwing to work out of his system.

Look through this Newcomers Guide for articles about the unusual names for familiar things, like “parish” instead of “county.” If you don’t like surprises, be sure to check out the laws, especially on marriage, community property and inheritances. Louisiana’s laws differ substantially from those in the other 49 states.

The ultimate unique features of Baton Rouge are the quality of life and the people who live here. You’ll hear a lot of laughter, some with a Cajun lilt. You’ll see a lot of smiles and friendly faces. You’ll eat a lot of great food. And you’ll find a wonderful feeling of warmth in the neighborhoods, the sort of ambience usually found only in small towns, but somehow carried over into this one of the ten fastest-growing cities in the United States.

Welcome to Baton Rouge!
Baton Rouge Centroplex

The city-parish's Riverside Centroplex is one of the largest entertainment facilities in the parish, and brings a variety of concerts, conventions and sporting events to the parish each year. Located at the corner of River Road and Government Street, the Centroplex was constructed between April, 1970 and September, 1974 at a cost of $17,000,000.

It consists of an arena and an exhibition hall overlooking the Mississippi River and a Theatre of Performing Arts.

The Centroplex arena has seating for more than 12,000. It consists of 72,000 square feet of unobstructed exhibit space with partitioning for smaller audiences. The arena seats 12,813 for festival style seating and 11,277 in floor arranged seating. The arena seats 10,595 with reserved seating.

The theatre has nine meeting rooms, three dressing rooms, three star dressing rooms, a sound system and banquet facilities. The Theatre of Performing Arts, located next to the Centroplex, has an 80' by 60' proscenium stage with seating for 2100 persons.

The Centroplex and Theatre of Performing Arts is part of the East Baton Rouge Parish Civic Center — Governmental Complex that also includes the Government Building, Louisiana Arts and Science Center, Civic Center Library, the North Boulevard Park and the Plaza Mall Park and Bicentennial Fountain.

The Centroplex's administrative offices number is 334-3530.

For box office information, phone 334-3949 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The box office is also open during all Centroplex events.

THE CENTROPLEX COMPLEX

Employment in the capital city

Unemployment in Baton Rouge has been a sad story as it has been almost every place in the country, but recent surveys show many are returning to work here and throughout the state.

The Louisiana Office of Employment Security reported 11.4 percent of the available work force out of work in June in the Baton Rouge area, which includes East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension and West Baton Rouge parishes.

However, the preliminary July figures show the number of unemployed people in June — 26,600 — may have dropped 6.4 percent to 24,650.

Statewide, statistics show that while 19,000 more people worked in July than in June, 46,000 people remained out of work.

The labor figures show the statewide unemployment rate in June was 13.1 percent. The total available work force of 1,866,000.

State officials acknowledged that was probably the highest unemployment rate reported in Louisiana in four decades.

Nationally, unemployment declined to 6.5 percent in July, compared to 10.8 percent last December, indicating the recession is on its way out.

Williams said Louisiana felt the recession's ill effects later than most states and it will likely recover more slowly than other states.

Meanwhile, economists said the oil and gas industry won't be back in full swing until more shut-down factories in the rest of the nation go back to work, consuming the surplus energy supply that will again result in a demand for Louisiana's products.

Employment rose slightly in July for oil and gas drilling workers.

Earnings in Louisiana and in the Baton Rouge area rose in 1983 compared to a year ago, the labor department said.

The average hourly wage for employees who manufacture durable goods was $14.60 in July 1983, compared to $14.59 in June and up from $14.71 in 1982.

For those who manufacture non-durable goods in the state, the average hourly wage was $13.40 in and up from $12.44 in July a year ago.

The highest hourly wage in the state is in the chemical and allied products field, with an hourly wage of $14.31 in July 1983, up from $14.07 in June and up from $13.68 in July a year ago.

In the four-parish Baton Rouge area, the average hourly wage for all manufacturing industries was $14.48 in July 1983, compared to $14.47 the month before and $14.64 in July 1982.


There are several avenues open to job-seekers. Among the most widely used are:

- Public employment services, operated by the state without charge. Newcomers are urged by officials to register for employment as soon as they arrive.
- Private employment agencies, operated on a fee basis, sometimes paid by the employer.
- Direct approach to personnel departments of federal, state and local government agencies and private businesses.

The classified advertisements in the local newspapers — or placing an ad in the newspapers for employment in specific areas.

Because many large industrial plants are tucked away in outlying areas, newcomers would do well to secure maps of the city and parish and surrounding parishes.

The State Employment Agency is always available to job-seekers. Trained counselors can give and interpret aptitude tests and direct the jobless to positions fitting their talents — all without charge.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office offers this advice for job-seekers:

- Have all pertinent personal data and work history ready available, being sure to furnish work experience, training and skills.

- Consider any reasonable job offer seriously and investigate future possibilities in relation to potential promotions.

- Try to learn something (prior to a job interview) about the company where the application is being filed.
Learning the laws

While learning their way around a new city, newcomers from out of state may find there are differences between traffic rules in Louisiana and those in the state from which they moved.

It also shouldn't take the newcomer long to notice that Baton Rouge has some traffic problems—poorly timed lights, too many traffic signals on some thoroughfares and a lack of alternate routes for motorists who daily must travel overused streets such as Florida Boulevard and Airline Highway. Based on figures for the past 5.5 years, the Safety Council of Greater Baton Rouge says the city has averaged more than 1,100 accidents per month and the parish area outside the city limits has averaged about 300 per month.

The city-parish averaged 49 accidents per day in 1978, 56 per day in 1979, 48 per day in 1980, 46 per day in 1981 and 1982, and 47 per day so far this year, council personnel said.

The city-parish recorded 60 traffic fatalities in 1978, 56 in 1979, 66 in 1980 and 71 in 1981. However, fatalities showed a sharp decline last year, dropping to 52. There have been 36 fatalities recorded there through Sept. 4 of this year, the council said.

Louisiana exceeded the national decline in highway fatalities in 1982 compared to 1981, figures from the National Safety Council show. While the nation's death toll dropped 10 percent, Louisiana experienced a 13 percent decrease in traffic deaths, preliminary figures from the Safety Council indicate.

In 1981, 1,246 persons died in Louisiana while 1,076 were killed on the state's highways in 1982. In 1980, 1,220 persons died in Louisiana highways and 1,185 died in 1979, the Safety Council said.

The 1982 Legislature made some dramatic changes in Louisiana's drunken driving laws. A new law guaranteeing punishment for all persons convicted of drunken driving went into effect Jan. 1, 1983. A motorist convicted of first-offense DWI faces a mandatory jail sentence of 10 days, with alternatives of two days in jail or four days of community service work. Either of the two alternatives are combined with screening for substance abuse and participation in a driver safety program.

A second offense calls for a jail sentence of not less than 30 days nor more than six months. The allowed substitutions for the jail penalties include serving 15 days in jail or participating in 30 eight-hour days of court-approved community service work, accompanied by taking part in substance abuse and driver education programs.

For a third-offense conviction, the motorist faces a jail sentence of from one year to five years, but with the stipulation that at least six months be served without benefit of parole, probation or suspension of sentence. There are fines ranging up to $1,000.

Other DWI bills approved by the Legislature provide for the processing of habitual traffic offenders by the Department of Public Safety; stronger sanctions for driving in violation of license suspension; and mandatory license suspension for DWI conviction.

Two new laws approved by the Legislature in 1983 establish the crimes of vehicular negligent injury and vehicular negligent homicide. Both laws went into effect on Aug. 30.

A motorist convicted of vehicular homicide faces a mandatory fine of $2,000 to $5,000 and two to (Continued on Page 14)
Learning the laws

License changes are a must

Authorities warn that motorists establishing residency in Louisiana are allowed only 15 days to get Louisiana driver's licenses and have their vehicles registered.

Baton Rouge area newcomers should take their vehicle registration papers and title issued from the state in which they previously resided to the Office of Motor Vehicles at 7701 Independence Boulevard and fill out an application for a Louisiana title, according to Buster Guzzardo, assistant administrator of the Safety Enforcement Section of Office of Motor Vehicles.

They are required to sign a declaration saying they have liability auto insurance or personal security, Guzzardo said. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Office of Motor Vehicles also has 62 offices at other locations around the state.

Title transfer costs $15. License plate fees are $6 for a two-year car plate, $20 for a two-year pickup truck tag and $6 for a two-year motorcycle plate. Personalized license plates are $50 and "ham" radio operator license plates are $1, plus the regular registration fee.

Payment of a sales tax also may be necessary.

The newcomer must pay, or may get a credit for the difference in sales tax, if any, between his or her former state and that in the area of Louisiana where he now lives, if Louisiana has a reciprocal agreement with the other state, the spokesman said.

Louisiana sales tax is 3 percent and individual city and parish taxes are added to that in many areas. Baton Rougeans pay a total of 6 percent.

The tax is applied only to the current retail value of the vehicle as listed in the National Automobile Dealers Association used car guide or "blue book," the spokesman said.

After paying all fees — personal checks may be used — the applicant is given license plates and registration papers. The title is mailed to him or her about five days later.

License plates for automobiles, motorcycles and for pickup trucks and trailers weighing less than 1,500 pounds must be renewed every two years. Plates for commercial vehicles and large trucks must be renewed yearly.

Normally, renewal notices are mailed to vehicle owners about 45 days before they are due. The vehicle owner can handle the registration chore by mail.

Once the newcomer has completed the title and registration transactions, he can get his driver's license — in the same Office of Motor Vehicles location.

After presenting his or her old out-of-state driver's license, the newcomer takes a written examination and an eye test.

If the motorist passes the exams, he or she pays a fee — in cash. No personal checks are accepted.

Louisiana has switched to a four-year driver's license permit for which the recipient pays $10. However, persons 70 years old or older are issued two-year driver's license permits. Cost of the two-year permit is $3.50.

At the time of payment, the driver receives a permanent or "instant" license.

Driver's licenses must be renewed within 90 days before expiration date.

Out-of-state vehicle safety inspection stickers are honored until the expiration date, Guzzardo said. However, he recommended that the motorist obtain a Louisiana vehicle inspection sticker after registering the vehicle in the state.

After the out-of-state inspection sticker has expired, the vehicle should be taken to any service station or auto dealership displaying a bright orange motor vehicle inspection station sign.

Before receiving a new sticker, the motorist must present a valid Louisiana driver's license, valid Louisiana registration certificate and valid Louisiana license plates. The driver also must sign a document saying he or she has liability auto insurance.

Inspection stickers must be renewed yearly.

There is a $5 fee for the sticker. The fee includes headlight adjustment, if necessary.

If the station makes any other required repairs it might be authorized to handle, it can impose additional charges.

Traffic laws—
(Continued from Page 13) five years imprisonment.

In January 1984, a .10 blood alcohol concentration will be considered illegal in and of itself rather than presumptive as under current law.

Also Jan. 1, driver's licenses will be suspended administrative-ly regardless of outcome of criminal proceedings for drivers with a .10 BAC or who refuse to take the chemical test for drunken driving.

Louisiana has several traffic laws that cause confusion for some out-of-state motorists, police say.

The one which most often causes problems and can lead to a citation for running a red light involves entering an intersection on a caution or yellow light. Police advises Richard Redd said.

(Continued on Page 16)
City-parish government

(Continued from Page 11)

trict 7, Don Ayres, senior vice president, branch administrator of Fidelity National Bank.

All seven City Council members join five parish councilmen to form the Parish Council.

Serving on the Parish Council from Ward 2, the northern area of the parish area are District 1, Tom McFie, transportation director for the parish school system, Districts 2 and 4, jeweler and service station operator, and District 3, John Marshall, an employee of Coastline Industries, representing Ward 3, the south and eastern sections of the parish are District 1, Doug Welborn, an employee of Allied Chemical Co., and Michael G. Roubique, a production supervisor of Allied Chemical Co.

The two councils hold regular meetings twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday on the third floor of the Governmental building downtown. In addition, the councilmen meet with their legislative committees on the odd Wednesdays of the month.

Most matters coming before the council are scheduled for a public hearing before they can be adopted. Members of the public are allowed to address the council on the item when they are before the panel.

Garbage collection, operated by the Department of Public Works Waste Management Division, is available twice a week on a rotational basis in all areas of the parish. Trash pickup of large items is offered only within the city limits and collection is scheduled about once a week.

Trash is collected on a zone system. There are seven zones in the parish, corresponding to the council districts. Each is collected about once a week.

Complaints of just about any nature, from abandoned vehicles to overgrown lots, are handled by the Citizens Service Office at 389-3090. That office will take action to relieve almost any public nuisance.

Complaints regarding public works, such as stepping up sewer lines, street potholes and drainage problems are handled by the Department of Public Works' Maintenance Division. The center, which can be reached at 389-4603, is open 24 hours a day.

The registrar of voters is located on the second floor of the Governmental Building. The registrar is Nathaniel Bankston.

Recreational activities are handled through the Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission, which operates 104 parks along with a variety of other recreational centers.

BREC also sponsors organized sports leagues of baseball, softball, basketball and football at its parks. BREC offers dance, gymnastics, art, ceramics, karate, cake decorating and French Lessons at its centers.

The city-parish's Animal Control Center (774-7700) will take care of picking up nuisance animals as well as operating programs to educate the public in local leash laws. All dogs in the parish must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian.

Baton Rouge has a strict leach law which outlaws loose dogs or cats from running at large. A new animal control center recently opened at the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Ryan Field.

Also at Ryan Field is the Mosquito and Rodent Control Center operated under a special tax approved by voters. Aid in fighting ants is available by calling 356-3268.

Low-income families may get help from the city-parish Division of Human Services (389-3949), a new umbrella agency overseeing social programs such as Head Start, Childhood Learning Centers, health referral centers and housing assistance.

Beside city-parish offices, the Centropus houses the courtroom, the district attorney's office, the clerk of court, the coroner and the sheriff's civil offices.

The city's main library is located on Goodwood Boulevard near Independence Park.

Louisiana's senators—

(Continued from Page 10)

lozing a similar bid in 1978.
Learning the laws

Blue laws still exist in Baton Rouge

East Baton Rouge is the only parish in the state to have a separate agency to oversee enforcement of its liquor laws. The parish's rules on liquor sales and bar closings haven't changed much in recent years, but the 1980 law that created the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board altered the enforcement attitude.

The ABC Board and its staff of legal investigators is under the auspices of the Parish Attorney's office. Along with the Metropolitan Council, the board has pushed for stricter enforcement of laws prohibiting the liquor sales to minors.

In East Baton Rouge Parish, restaurants can sell beer and other alcoholic beverages between 12:30 p.m. and midnight on Sundays, but only in conjunction with meals. The city and parish code concerning the sale of alcohol identifies a restaurant as an establishment which derives most of its revenue from the sale of food, and not from drink. It is eligible to sell alcoholic beverages on Sundays when bars are closed.

Other retail outlets, such as grocery stores and convenience stores, are allowed to sell beer only from 12:30 p.m. until midnight Sunday.

The ABC Board also decides whether individuals who work in bars or as sales clerks in retail stores qualify for licenses required under the new law. While the state sets the permit fees for bar and restaurant owners and wholesale and retail outlets, the city-parish laws charge a $10 fee for a two-year bartender's license. Clerks who work in retail outlets are also charged $10, but the license is only good for the time the individual is employed by the particular store for which he obtained the license.

Store managers and bar owners are required to keep the licenses of their employees posted in prominent places, the law says. Parishes adjacent to East Baton Rouge recently amended their bar closing hours to shut down what once were lively hot spots for early morning parties.

Bars in neighboring West Baton Rouge Parish, outside of the three municipalities there, must stop selling liquor at 1 a.m. and must close by 2 a.m. every night of the week, a sheriff's spokesman said.

Iberville Parish, which has a number of bars located on La. 30 just south of LSU, has also imposed a 2 a.m. closing time. Ascension Parish, located south of Baton Rouge, also has a 2 a.m. closing hour.

None of the three neighboring parishes prohibit bar closings on Sunday.

Traffic laws

(Continued from Page 10)

and wide enough for two or more lanes of moving vehicles. Under Louisiana law, a driver "meeting or overtaking from any direction a school bus which has stopped or is about to stop on the highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school children" shall stop his vehicle not less than 30 feet before reaching the bus and shall not resume motion until the bus resumes motion or the stop signals on the bus are no longer in operation.

The requirement to stop not less than 30 feet before reaching the bus applies equally to situations where the motorist is traveling in an opposite direction on an undivided four-lane street or highway, Redd said.

Louisiana motorists are allowed to make a right turn on a red light, assuming the way is clear, unless the intersection has a sign prohibiting such a turn. A left-turn-on-red rule also became effective statewide in September 1978. This law allows a left turn at a red light from a one-way street onto another one-way street.

Under both of these turns-on-red laws, motorists are required to come to a complete stop and yield to all cross traffic and pedestrians.

In Baton Rouge and in other cities, signs have been posted prohibiting right turns on red near schools during school hours. There are also signs prohibiting the turns at all intersections where a service road parallels a main roadway or as parts of Airline Highway and Florida Boulevard.

According to state statute, "no moving vehicle upon any public highway within this state shall be operated with only the parking lights for illumination."

Under state law, vehicular hazards signals or flashing lights are intended for use only in real emergencies. Lighted vehicle lamps are required by state law "at any time when the sun is below the horizon and other times when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet ahead."

Motorists must be able to produce their vehicle registration papers (pink slips) and title certificates upon request by an officer, Redd said.

A Louisiana resident who changes his address is required within 10 days of the move to visit his local driver's license bureau and have the change noted on his driver's license. Authorities say citations are issued for failure to do so.

And, officials say motorists should reduce their speed and pull over for emergency vehicles with flashing lights and sirens.

Bicyclists in Baton Rouge are required to register their bicycles. Failure to register a bicycle could result in a fine up to $10 and impoundment of the bicycle.

The fee is $1, which includes registration and issuance of a license plate. Bikes may be registered at the Baton Rouge Police Department Bicycle Theft and Registration Office at 2525 Amiralco St. (the old Hollywood Elementary School). All motorized vehicles, other than farm equipment, operating on city or

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Housing in river city

Apartment and house hunting may be perplexing to new residents of Baton Rouge.

One of the best sources in your search for a place to live is the classified section of the newspaper. The Sunday Advocate offers a special Real Estate Classified section which features pictures and stories on available homes.

One of the first things you may notice when looking through the real estate section is that homes for sale - new or existing - are broken down in the geographic areas. This will be helpful in your search since you may want to locate close to your place of employment.

You will be able to tell from the ads which agents concentrate in which area. If you call one of them for assistance in locating a home they will be able to tell you about schools, churches and shopping centers convenient to the neighborhoods you are most interested in.

The Baton Rouge Board of Realtors, located at 644 North Lobdell, maintain a multiple listing service for their members. If you visit an MLS agent you will be able to find information on existing homes in the areas that interest you.

The Homebuilders Association of Greater Baton Rouge, located at 1801 Wooddale Court, Suite B, is one source that can help in locating new housing available in the area.

There are also several commercial apartment finder services listed in the newspaper and the telephone directory.

According to the Baton Rouge Board of Realtors, the best housing areas in Baton Rouge based on current increasing inflation are areas 3 (19 percent appreciation in '82), 2 & 5 (7 percent and 47 percent respectively in '82), and 4 (12 percent appreciation in '82), and areas 4 & 6 actually showed a slight decline in average sales on the Real Estate map (located in the newspaper).

The least expensive area is area 2 (houses under $42,746).

The Multiple Listing Service (MLS) is reporting (as of Sept. 1983) 4,663 active listings: 3,529 houses, 926 lots (vacant), 261 multi-family; 244 commercial/industrial (mostly commercial) on the market. The average sales price for 1982 was $77,859, and for the first 6 months of '83, $78,500. The highest is Area 6, $87,061.

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