Population
Economic Resource

The population of an area is its most economic resource. The growth trends, location, and age distribution of the population can provide a good view of the potential of the parish.

In the census of 1900 Acadia Parish had a population of 23,483. The next decade saw a tremendous increase to 31,867, a growth rate of 35.6 percent. More gradual growth was seen until the period of 1940-1950 when the combination of World War II and increased agricultural mechanization forced many to leave the parish in search of jobs. The out-migration rate reached 15 percent for the thirty years between 1940 and 1970. A gain was shown in the period from 1950 to 1960 due to the improved economy after the influx of the oil industry. 1960 to 1970 showed a slower gain with the agricultural industries' readjustment. In the past ten years the growth has been steady with more growth in the rural areas than the urbanized areas. This can be attributed in part to the increase of the oil industry in adjacent Lafayette Parish and the desire to live away from the urban areas of Lafayette.

A population projection is an estimate of future population. Assuming the population of the parish will grow in the next twenty years as it did in the past twenty years, a projection of the population can be given as follows: 1980-90, 1990-2000; 1990-2010; and 2000-2020.

Climate

The climate of Acadia Parish is humid subtropical as is the southern half of the state. This type of climate is characterized by long, hot summers and short, mild, wet winters. Here the growing season is usually long, with about 210 frost free days. Highest rainfall is in the summer months of July and August. The yearly average is around 62.4 inches of rain a year.
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Church Point School System

Public and parochial schools in the Church Point Community provide quality education. All feature fully operational plants with abundant extra-curricular activities including band programs and athletics. The public school system includes Church Point Elementary which houses grades K through fifth; Church Point Junior High having grades six, seven and eight; Church Point High housing ninth through twelfth. Surrounding elementary schools are Mire Elementary, Branch Elementary and Richard Elementary.

A parochial school, Our Mother of Peace School houses grades K through eighth. For the younger members of the community two facilities care for nursery through preschool children. These are Kiddie Kare and Charlene's Playschool. Preschool children attend Secret Squirrel Head Start Center. Colleges accessible to the community are UL in Lafayette, LSU in Baton Rouge, McNeese State University at Lake Charles and LSU-E at Eunice. Vocational Technical schools in Lafayette, Crowley and Opelousas are available to local residents.

Forestry

In Acadia Parish, 66,000 acres, or 16 percent, of the land area is in commercial forest activities. This is an eight percent decrease in area since 1964. There are no national forests in Acadia.

The economic impact or income derived from forestry in the parish has more than doubled since 1977. Pine saw timber and pulpwood account for between 96 and 98 percent for the income, while cypress, oak, gum and other hardwoods make up the remainder.

A new endeavor in forestry in the parish is developing Christmas Tree Farms. It is estimated that this will be a new source of forest income while supplying fresh local Christmas Trees to the residents of Acadia Parish.

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RAYNE
Acadia Parish has a good network of Federal, State and Parish highways and roads. Interstate Highway 10 crosses the parish in an east-west route. It has greatly relieved U.S. 90 which is now considered a connector route. Louisiana Highway 14 is the principal north-south two-lane artery from Alexandria to New Iberia. State Highways 58, 91 and 97 also provide two lane routes generally paralleling Louisiana 15. The other lesser roads provide adequate farm to market service throughout the parish.

The parish is served by two rail lines: the main branch of the Southern Pacific Railroads from New Orleans to the West Coast and a branch line of the Missouri Pacific to Eunice which connects with main line, Texas and Pacific Railway which is owned by Missouri Pacific, serves Church Point.

Six motor freight lines serve Acadia Parish: Southern Pacific Motor Transport, Missouri Pacific Transporting, REA Express, Ryder Truck Lines, Sala Motor Freight, and Texas and Pacific Lines. Local contract carriers include Folgerman Truck Lines, John N. John Truck Lines, Spell Brothers Trucking. Other carriers serve this area but do not have local facilities or offices.

United Parcel Service also serves Acadia Parish (Continued on Page 16).
Recreational Facilities Plentiful

Visitors in Rayne are amazed at the amount of recreation in this city of 10,000 people. They say cities much larger are not as active in recreation as this city in the heart of the rice belt.

Adults and children can find some sort of recreation that will suit them. The city has an active Youth Recreation Committee headed up by Recreation Director James "Jimbo" Pettijohn. Also, there are a number of outstanding business places that sponsor sporting teams where needed.

Rayne-High School has a rounded athletic program, including football, basketball, baseball, boys' and girls' track, girls' volleyball, girls' basketball and girls' softball. The school fields competitive teams in the districts they participate in and have turned out some outstanding athletes in all sports.

Rayne High, and all schools in Acadia Parish, have good dedicated coaches who are teaching sportsmanship, character, desire to play and compassion for their fellowmen. In all, there are five schools in Acadia Parish participating in football programs, while another has basketball as its main sport.

One can find tennis courts throughout the parish. In Rayne, courts are available for public use in Gossen Park (in north Rayne), in South Rayne Park and in Mauboules Park (east Rayne). Private courts are also available for members of the Acadia Parish Health Club.

For the children, Rayne sports one of the most active summer baseball programs in the parish with everything from T-Ball through American Legion ball played on fields right here in the city. Just recently, the Youth Recreation Committee incorporated a flag football program for the youth.

Frisbees are popular to throw around during the summer months. Jogging, walking and bicycling are also popular for both adults and children. Many people also enjoy horseback riding and canoescapes in the parish's many public parks.

Families who would like to move to Abbeville always ask about schools, hospitals, stores and, most of all, recreation for their families.

Rayne and all of Acadia Parish has a good reputation throughout Acadia for the fine recreation available, and for the outstanding hospitality shown by the citizens of the parish.

Visitors to Church Point are amazed at the beautiful City Park serving the people of the community. Cities or towns much larger are not as active in recreation as Church Point.

Adults and children can find some sort of recreation that will suit them. Some outstanding business places and Civic organizations sponsor sporting teams where needed.

A high school in the town has rounded programs including football, basketball, baseball, track, tennis and softball.

Church Point Junior High has a basketball and baseball program. Church Point High has competitive teams in the district they participate in and turn out some outstanding athletes in all sports.

The schools have good dedicated coaches, who are teaching sportsmanship, character, desire to play and compassion (Continued on Page 17).

CHURCH POINT CITY PARK—One of many such recreational facilities throughout Acadia.

TRANSPORTATION

Municipal Airport in Lafayette, 23 miles, has commercial passenger service provided by Texas International, Royale, Hammond, with connecting flights to national and international air carriers.

Greyhound Bus Lines has daily service through the parish.

Water transportation by barge is available from the Intracoastal Canal through Lake Arthur to the Mermentau River and the Mermentau River Harbor.

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RAYNE

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Town of Church Point Boasts of Civic Organizations

(Continued from Page 16) They have been known for their follow

City Park, a 20 acre park, provides facilities for playing baseball, softball, volleyball, basketball and tennis. Picnic areas are also available with a pavilion and restrooms.

Another park now in the making is the Northwest Neighborhood Park on six acres of land. The community has a baseball program for seven year old through nineteen. The T-ball teams, ages 7 and 8, Mustang League, 9-10 and Bronco 11-12 year olds are sponsored by the Church Point Little League Association. The Pony Baseball League sponsors the Pony League, 13 and 14 and the Colts, 15 and 16 year olds. The American Legion Post 255 sponsors the American Legion team for boys 17-19. A Pee Wee Basketball team for fifth grade through eighth graders is sponsored by the Jaycees, who also sponsor the Pee Wee Football teams. The Church Point Jaycee Women sponsor the Pee Wee cheerleaders. The Intermediate Cub Football team is for boys in the seventh and eighth grades. During the summer months there are softball leagues and tournaments and tennis tournaments for adults. There are also Tennis Ladders for men and women.

Each May a Bear Paw Run is held attracting runners from near and far. An Aquatic Club, Inc. swimming pool provides citizens with summer fun. This is a privately owned facility.

Other activities and provide services through out the year. The Saddle Tramp Riding Club sponsors the Courir de Mardi Gras, the Cajun Day Festival, rodeos and trail rides. The Church Point Rodeo Club sponsors Rodeos, the Church Point High School Rodeo and trail rides. The Jaycees sponsor the Pee Wee Football and basketball program. The Church Point Jaycee Women sponsor the Pee Wee Cheerleaders. The Lion’s Club provides the Glaucoma Unit for testing eyes for glaucoma, they assist with the Cripple Children’s Camp in Leesville and provide eye glasses for the needy. They assist wherever they are needed.

The Lion’s Club sponsors an annual auction with proceeds going to the Athletic Department of Church Point High. Other organisations for the youth are the Boys Scouts, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts.

RECREATION

for both adults and children with many people enjoying horse back riding. Church Point has a good reputation over the area for the fine recreation going on and the outstanding hospitality shown by the Church Point Citizens.

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Agriculture Remains ‘No. 1’ Business In Parish

Acadia Parish is predominantly an agricultural parish with almost 80 percent of its land in farms. It is one of the few parishes in Louisiana that has a farm.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

The Crowley Rice Experiment Station is a research and development facility of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Extension Service. It is world-renowned for its contribution to the development of rice.

income that exceeds $50 million per year. Since a survey in 1974, subsequent surveys show the total acres and number of farms reflect a minimum of change. Value of land and buildings per acre and per farm has nearly doubled in value during this period. There has been an increase in mechanized equipment since 1974, therefore, fuel cost is one of the areas in which costs have risen.

The only reductions are in the area of farm expenditures. Less was spent on feed and fertilizer. Small increases were seen in labor costs and machine hire.

A summary of agricultural gross sales since 1975 show that rice, long the most important crop in the parish, was edged out for several years by the soybean. Very little cotton is produced in Acadia Parish any more. Forage crops have declined in importance and acreage.

Sweet potatoes were tried several years ago with success and the crop is still produced to some slight extent in Acadia. Fruit trees and pecans have been increasing in value. The harvest of crawfish has contributed to the agricultural income of the parish, except in 1977. Catfish farming income has declined slightly over the years.

Beef cattle are important in Acadia Parish, although income has gradually declined. Dairy cattle income has been relatively constant over the past years. Swine production decreased, then increased greatly in income in 1981. Income from horses decreased in 1979 and 1980, but increased in 1981 to be equal to previous years, and has remained relatively constant since.

Based on the figures for the past years, agriculture will continue to be a main part of the economic picture of Acadia Parish, which will continue as an important agricultural parish in the state.

Important Numbers

New residents in the Church Point area will need to know the following phone numbers:

- School Board: 1-785-3664
- Sheriff’s Office: 1-785-5616
- Town Hall: 684-5683
- Police Department: 684-5465
- Acadian Ambulance: 1-385-3511
- Acadian St. Landry Hospital: 684-5435
- Fire Department: 684-5494
- Police Jury: 1-785-3397

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"A Town Upon the Prairie Sat..."

"A town upon the Prairie sat... Papueville was its name..."

Thus went the works of an early poem, credited to one of Rayne’s pioneer citizens, and from this modest beginning, Rayne has grown into a city of about 10,000 people.

Rayne first came into existence in 1880, when the newly built Southern Pacific railroad established a switch at the present site of the town and put in a station. The early settlers, who had started to build to the south of the present location, literally moved the town—buildings at a time—in close to the railroad, and those twin steel rails are still the "dividing line" between the North and South Rayne.

Like most towns in Southwest Louisiana, Rayne has a background of Indians and Acadians, and much of its income is credited to the production of rice, oil and, more recently, soybeans. Antoine Blanc is credited with being the first settler of the Rayne area. Rayne has several religious denominations. The Catholic church, St. Joseph, was moved to its present site in 1882, but was actually established over 100 years ago.

Many active civic organizations make Rayne a busy and progressive community, among the latest of these being the Rayne Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. A modern City Hall and Police Station serve the city and the City of Rayne owns and operates its own Municipal Power Plant and is served in the line of fire protection by the active and highly-respected Rayne Volunteer Fire Association.

Rayne also boasts a modern hospital, an assortment of public and (Continued on Page 25)

INDUSTRIAL

(Continued from Page 22)

Rayne-Crowley Industrial Park: This area is a 66-acre complex with immediate access to Interstate 10 as well as rail lines. It has water and sewerage facilities. It is administered by the Acadiana Parish Police Jury. Information can be obtained from the Crowley Chamber of Commerce, Box 1114, Crowley, La. 70528.

Mermentau Harbor and Terminal District: This 330-acre site is located one mile north of the Town of Mermentau. It offers one-half mile frontage of the Mermentau River, which has a 12-foot channel depth. More information can be obtained from the Mermentau Harboor and Terminal District, Box 1385, Jennings, La. 70546.
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St. Joseph Catholic Church
Reverend Benoit Drapet, C.J.M., Reverend Paul Belliveau, C.J.M. Weekend Masses: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday 10:30 a.m. Weekly Masses: Monday thru Friday: 8:30 a.m., Saturday: 7:30 a.m., Tuesday & Friday: 9:30 a.m.
Confessions: 30 minutes before weekend masses; 15 minutes before weekday masses.

Church of the Assumption

RAYNE
(Continued from Page 34)

Our Lady Of Sacred Heart Church
Rev. Eugene Tremie, Pastor, Rev. Mr. John B. Thibodeaux, Deacon, Rev. John-Fidel Paradis, Chaplain at the Guest Home and Hospital, Father Paul Bergeron, Associate Pastor. Masses: Saturday: 6:30 p.m. Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. Confessions: Saturdays, 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. and

Mire, La.
Father Henri-Paul Chaisson, C.J.M., Pastor
MASS: Saturdays and Evenings (anticipated) 5:00 p.m. Sundays 8:30 a.m. Holy Days 6:15 a.m. & 8:30 p.m. Baptisms By Appointment.
First Saturday 5 p.m. anticipated Mass entirely in French.

Before each weekday Mass.

Assumption Catholic Church
Father Henri-Paul Chaisson, C.J.M., Mire
(Continued on Page 28)

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CHURCH LISTINGS

(Continued from Page 25)

Lousiana. Masses at 4 p.m. Saturday-Winter: 5 p.m. Saturday-Summer. Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Monday & Thursday, 9:00 a.m. Winter, 5:30 p.m. Summer. Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 6:15 a.m. Confessions 10 minutes before Masses. Baptisms and Marriage arranged by appointment.

St. Leo's Catholic Church
Rev. Glen John Provost

Catholic Church
Branch, Louisiana, Mass on Thursday-4:15 a.m. Saturday, Anticipated Mass-4 p.m., Sunday Mass 7:30 a.m. Pastor Rev. Glen John Provost

Immaculate Heart Of Mary
Catholic Church
Father Edward Glebe, C.S.S.R., 991 E. Elm. Pastor, Sunday Masses: 6, 8, 10:30 a.m., 5 p.m. Sat. 5, 6:30 p.m. Weekdays 6 and 8 a.m.

St. Theresa Catholic Church
Father Henry Hoffer S.S.J., 47 East 3rd St., Sat. Masses 6 p.m., Sunday 7:30 and 10:30 a.m.

St. Michael Church
Rev. Paul Metrejean pastor. N. Ave. P & West 4th Saturday: 4:30 and 6 p.m.; Sunday: 7, 10, 11:30 a.m. 6 p.m. Holy Days: 5:30 anticipated. 6:30, 8:30, 12:10 & 5:30 p.m. Weekdays 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Lyons Point
Rev. Steven Lelieblanc, Pastor. Masses: Sunday 8:30 a.m. and Saturday 6 p.m.

METHODIST

Centenary Methodist
Rev. Douglas Foreman, Rayne, Louisiana, Sunday School-10:30 a.m. Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Rev. Doug Foreman, Sunday School-10:00 a.m.

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