Sen. Long Chief Speaker in Ceremonies at Lafitte

Will Hail Barataria Waterway Completion

United States Senator Russell Long will be principal speaker at special ceremonies Wednesday at Lafitte marking completion of the Corps of Engineers-constructed $1.6 million Barataria Bay Waterway.

According to John Stone, president of the Harvey Canal Industrial Association, sponsor of the event, the public ceremonies will begin at 3 p.m.

Also participating will be Capt. J. R. Ayers, master of ceremonies; Maj. Gen. Robert G. MacDonnel, Deputy Chief of Engineers, Washington, D. C.; Claude Kirkpatrick, director, Louisiana Department of Public Works; Jefferson Parish President M. Dan Hogan, and other parish, state and local officials.

WATERWAY 12 FEET DEEP

Col. Edward B. Jennings, New Orleans District Engineer for the U.S. Army, supervised construction of the new waterway, which started in May 1960. A modification of the five-foot-deep by 50-foot-wide “Barataria Bay” project, the new waterway is 12-feet deep over a bottom width of 125 feet. It extends from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway near New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico at Grand Isle.

The waterway is used extensively by oil companies in carrying supplies and equipment to drilling operations both inshore and offshore.

AIDS OIL INDUSTRY

It is also used for towing, transportation of seafood and as an alternate route for pleasure boats in reaching the deep-sea fishing area of the Gulf.

Army Engineer statistics reveal that the average annual traffic over the existing project for the past five years was 1.7 million tons, with over 1.9 million tons moving over it during 1962. The oil industry contributed the major commodities.


Map by U.S. Corps of Engineers

THIS MAP shows the route of the Barataria Bay Waterway, completion of which will be marked in ceremonies Wednesday. The new waterway extends from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway near New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico at Grand Isle. Construction on the $1.6 million project began in 1960.