

Westbank Oil Patch



A PUBLICATION OF THE DESK AND DERRICK CLUB OF THE WESTBANK
GRETN, LA

2020 Board of Directors

President: Angie Duplessis
Vice President: Judi Adams
Secretary: Zelda Gillan
Treasurer: Debbie Brazeal
Director: Linda Belsome
Director: Bonnie Wall
Imm. Past President: Theresa Adams

2020 Committee Chairmen

Aimee: Bonnie Wall
Bulletin: Judi Adams
Bylaws: Judi Adams
Election: Pam Lauckner
Field Trip: Bonnie Wall
Finance: Debbie Brazeal
and Linda Belsome
General Arrangements: Elaine Lesnak
and Zelda Gillan
Membership/Orientation: Elaine Lesnak
Nominating: Judy Guillot
Program/IAN: Judi Adams
Scholarship: Gaylen Guillory

Front Cover :
Columbia Farm Area
Early Oil Fields of Pennsylvania
Opposite: Drake Well Historic Site
Photographer: Judi Adams—May 2009

Inside this issue:

Officers and Committees	2
President's Letter	3
Monthly Program and Calendar	4
Westbank Club	5-10
Southeast Region Director Letter	11
ADDC President Letter	12-13
Industry	14-15
General	16-18

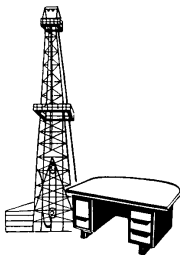


Club President's Newsletter

Angie Duplessis
President

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August 2020

Dear Westbank Members,

As I reflect on the last five months of this COVID-19 Pandemic...I wonder when will things ever get back to normal. It seems that each century has something that stands out and I'm sure COVID will not be forgotten anytime soon!

The Board has voted to cancel the August General Membership Meeting. The State of Louisiana and our local area continues to struggle with an increase in COVID cases. Citizens are required to wear face masks when out in public and continue to practice social distancing with others.

School will be starting soon...be mindful of children waiting at the bus stops. Also, be aware of your surroundings while driving especially through school zones.

Regardless of the events of late, we must move forward. It is time for the Nomination for 2021 Officers and Board of Directors; begin thinking if you would like to serve the club. It only takes a few hours of your time each month, so please consider joining the team. If you have a position in mind, please take time to look up the position description for each of the officer and board positions. They are included in the Westbank Club Bylaws/Handbook under the section ***General Responsibilities of the Officers and Board Members***. Our club needs you as we continue the quest for ***“Greater knowledge – Greater Service”***. If we are unable to have a general membership meeting, voting will be done by mail/email ballot.

Remember.....***We Can Do It!***

Angie Duplessis

2020 Meeting Schedule	
BOARD MEETINGS	GENERAL MEETINGS
January 15	January 22
February 19	February 26
March 17 (changed due to conflict)	CANCELLED
April 15 (teleconference)	CANCELLED
May 20 (teleconference)	CANCELLED
June 17 CANCELLED	CANCELLED
July—NO MEETING	July—NO MEETING
August 19 (teleconference)	CANCELLED
September 16 (teleconference)	September 23—PENDING
October 21	October 28—PENDING
November 11 (changed due to Thanksgiving)	November 18—PENDING
December—No Meeting	Holiday Brunch—PENDING

Monthly Program			
Month	Speaker	Topic	Invocation/Introduction
January	Tristan Babin	ACE Pipeline	
February	Tim Schotsch	Evolution of Waste	Judi
March-August	CANCELLED		
September	Tom Bergeon	Climate Change	Judi
October	Elaine/Zelda	Orientation	
November	Susan Miller	2021 Installation	Judi/Angie
December	NO MEETING		

**WESTBANK DESK & DERRICK CLUB
RESUME' FOR 2021 OFFICE**

Name: _____

Candidate for: _____

Company: _____

Position: _____

Years as D&D Member: _____

Offices Held: _____

Club Experience: _____

Association Experience: _____

Regionals Attended: # _____ **Conventions Attended: #** _____

Business Experience: _____

Educational Background: _____

Personal Data: _____

Company Support: _____

Deadline: 9/16/2020

Signed

Mail or email your resume to:

Judy Guillot

4005 Hillcrest

Marrero, LA 70072

504-347-0022

Judy.s.guillot.hvze@statefarm.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

DESK AND DERRICK CLUB OF THE WESTBANK

Desk and Derrick Club of the Westbank will be collecting items for the St. Joseph Apartments in Gretna. Members will be bringing items to the residents living in the Apartments. These are all senior citizens and we could make a difference in the lives of these senior citizens with just a little donation.

Items to be collected are the following:

Mens/Ladies socks, books, combs, brushes, shower caps, kleenex, travel soaps, shampoo, conditioners, pens, stationery, games, small food items or any other things that they may need. All will be appreciated by these residents.



Contact:
Susan Miller
smiller7451@yahoo.com
504.908.6131

2020

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR OUR SOLDIERS

*WESTBANK DESK AND DERRICK
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT*

SENDING THOUGHTS AND WISHES FOR HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
SAFE AND QUICK RETURN HOME, GOD'S BLESSINGS,
AND THANKS FOR THEIR SERVICE AND
PROTECTING OUR FREEDOMS

Help us meet our 2020 goal of 2020 cards!

CONTACT BONNIE R. WALL 504-362-3671 (H) 504-439-1650 (C)

E MAIL seawall4@cox.net

Bonnie will bring cards to the meetings throughout the year
So take a few and sign a few! Or take a lot and sign a lot!! Or go through
your own stash of cards and sign, sign, sign!!



Desk & Derrick

Community service to the

GRETNA FOOD BANK

COLLECTING MONEY AND FOOD ITEMS!

**Judy and Sylvia will have the oatmeal box at the meetings –
ready for our \$ donations.**

breakfast cereal, oatmeal, pasta, rice, crackers, flour, grits,
healthy snacks canned vegetables, canned fruits, shelf-stable vegetable or fruit juice
diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, dried fruits, fruit cups
canned tuna, canned beans, dried beans, peanut butter



Oatmeal



grits



cereal



pasta



rice



flour



tcrackers



canned vegetables



fruit juice



tomato sauce

\$\$\$

Gretna Food Bank accepts all nonperishable items.
(i.e., foods that do not need to be frozen or refrigerated)

They prefer non-glass containers for safety reasons.

Please also consider nutritional food items that are low in sodium/salt/sugar.

Whole grain and whole wheat items are also very much needed.

(i.e., bread, crackers, rice, pasta)



TOYS FOR TOTS

Collecting NEW, Un-wrapped toys

At the November Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Or email Angie for pick-up aduples1@p66.com





Throwback Pictures:

2009—Convention: Judi Adams, Donna Siburt, Angie Duplessis

2010—ADDC Board of Directors

2011—ADDC President and Grand Poobah Angie Duplessis at Budget and Planning Meeting





Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Keith Atkins

Murphy USA Inc.

PRESIDENT ELECT

Evelyn Green

GBC Minerals, Ltd

SECRETARY

Casi Nichols

Spur Services LLC

TREASURER

Philana Thompson

Merrion Oil & Gas Corp

IMMEDIATE PAST

PRESIDENT

Terry Ligon

L Chem Tech Company Inc

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Marilyn Carter

CENTRAL REGION

DIRECTOR

Shelly McCool

Taylor Services, LLC

NORTHEAST REGION

DIRECTOR

Shelly Hildebrandt

Miller & Cook, LLP

SOUTHEAST REGION

DIRECTOR

Susan Miller

WEST REGION

DIRECTOR

Christina Forth

FFAF Cargo

Susan Miller

Southeast Region Director

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Gretna, LA 70053

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August 2020

Dear Members,

Well, I would normally be talking about summer vacations being over; but it has not been much of a vacation-oriented summer for everyone. Many families have improvised in back yards or local road trips instead. Soon, children will be going back to school and facing a very different situation. I wish all the parents, teachers, and students the best of luck with the requirements this year; I know teachers and students will adjust to the challenges they face in the coming school year.

Members, it is time to start thinking about stepping up to the plate and running for office on your club level. We need you all to keep Desk and Derrick moving forward; it is a learning experience that is worth the time and effort. Ask your current officers where your club can best use your knowledge and expertise and put your name on the 2021 ballot or committee volunteer sheets.

Your club presidents will be receiving the control document with instructions for Election of 2021 ADDC Officers due to the cancellation of the 2020 ADDC Convention. Presidents, please be sure to follow the directions carefully and return the document before the deadline so your club's vote will be registered.

I remain hopeful that our clubs will be meeting again soon and the pandemic will be under control. We will have to wait and see – and stay safe and informed.

I would like to recognize Judi Adams, Keith Atkins, and Evelyn Green for completing the online Accounting Certification Class that was scheduled to be held at the Southeast Region Meeting in April. Thanks to Sheryl Minear, instructor, for conducting an online class. Your dedication to Desk and Derrick's motto of "Greater Knowledge-Greater Service" is very much appreciated.

Stay safe,

Susan Miller

2020 Southeast Region Director



Board of Directors

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DIRECTOR
Susan Miller

WEST REGION

DIRECTOR
Christina Forth
FFAF Cargo

Keith Atkins

President

c/o Murphy USA Inc.

PO Box 7300

El Dorado, AR 71731-7300

870-866-8686

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August 2020

I hope August finds you all well. With COVID-19 still raging on around the world, it doesn't appear that life will be back to normal soon. As of this letter, my Cancun trip is still on. The Mexican State of Quintana Roo, where Cancun is located, isn't in an area that is considered a hot spot, but to help keep it that way, the state is designated "red" between July 27 and August 2, meaning on essential activities are allowed. No in restaurant dining, only takeout and delivery. Hotels are limited to 25 percent occupancy. Hopefully, after August 2, they will relax and move to "orange" which means pretty much everything can open at 50 percent capacity. We are keeping our fingers crossed for a safe, healthy vacation.

Soon we will send out the final Slate of Officers for 2021. The deadline for submission of additional nominees has not quite arrived as of the writing of this letter, so I can't report any changes from the earlier announced Slate of Officers at this time. As a reminder, the first week of August, we will send a final Slate of Officers for club presidents to send to their members. The Nominating Committee will host a Candidate's Caucus, scheduling a call with each nominee to give them a question, and get their response. The questions and answers will be sent out as well as being posted on the website. The Registrar Committee will prepare the numbered, trackable, mail-in ballots and send them to the club presidents. Clubs will have approximately one month to complete and return the completed ballots to the Registrar Committee, postmarked by Friday, September 18, 2020. The election results will be sent out around October 1.

The Q2 financials should soon be reviewed by the Finance Review Committee and ready to distribute to our members. There is no change in membership total, so we still stand at 932 members.

For several years, we've been discussing a desire to expand the courses of our Certification Program to include other energy industry related topics such as Renewable Energy and Transportation, to expand the program. We also want to create standardized training materials and tests. Standardized training material and testing will make it easier for any subject matter expert to know exactly what to cover, making it easier to find someone to teach the course. That, along with standard tests will also ensure that everyone taking the courses at different times will have the same experience, same method of testing, etc. Additionally, we would possibly have a new revenue stream by developing an option for offering the program online, which might help in getting our Program accredited. With

Continued...

accreditation, we may be able to offer an online Program outside our membership. In a step forward towards that goal, Judi Adams approached the Board for permission to provide an online offering of the Accounting portion of the Certification Program to the members who had registered to take the course in New Orleans in April during the Southeast Region Meeting. Seeing this as an opportunity to test how a non-traditional class would work, the Board approved the request. On Saturday, June 27, Sheryl Minear taught the Accounting portion of the Certification Program to Judi, Evelyn Green, and me via a Zoom video conference. The training materials were sent by email prior to the class. During the class, Sheryl covered the materials, answering questions from the attendees as they came up. After the course materials were covered, Sheryl emailed the test to each attendee and one hour was given to complete the open book test and email it back. The meeting ended and we completed our tests and returned to Sheryl. The class went smoothly, and we all enjoyed the experience. This gives us a good start in moving forward with our long-term goal for the Program.

Please take care in August and try to stay cool in this terrible heat!

"Well done is better than well said." Benjamin Franklin

Keith

Fun Facts About the History of Air Conditioning

Since it's too hot to go outside and you're probably safely ensconced in your comfortably air conditioned home or office, you may be feeling blessed to live in the 21st century where we only have to step inside to escape from the heat. But the truth is, our ancestors had all sorts of clever ways to beat the heat, and some of their ideas are precursors to air conditioning as we know it today. So sit back and enjoy these fun facts about the history of air conditioning.

Fun Fact #1: The Cave Dwellers built the first geothermal-cooled homes

We all know that it's cooler underground and inside the earth. The first human hunter-gatherers figured that out for us a long time ago, probably around 10,000 BC. Not only did they make their homes in cool caves, but they built burrows under the earth to escape the heat. And now, 12,000 years later, geothermal cooling is the latest and greatest in cooling technology!

Fun Fact #2: The Egyptians invented water-cooled air conditioning

How smart do you have to be to figure out how to build giant pyramids out of rock without power equipment? Those Egyptians had some real talent for problem-solving, and you can bet it was pretty hot in Africa's Nile River valley. So what did they do to stay cool without the benefit of modern air conditioning? They hung up wet reeds in the windows to cool the breeze coming in. It was the first water-cooled air conditioning!

Fun Fact #3: The Ancient Greeks and Romans developed ducting systems

After the Ancient Greeks developed the idea of central heating and cooling using water piped from aqueducts, the Romans stepped up the game with their hypocaust system. Their luxury villas and public bath houses had mosaic tiled stone floors supported by columns. The space underneath was used to transport heated air to warm the space, just like our modern HVAC systems use ducts to transport heated and cooled air to the spaces that need it.

Oil Industry HeadlinesIn The News July 2020 (source ocsbbs.com)

7/17/2020 - BOEM Proposes Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico – BOEM proposes to offer approximately 78.8 million acres for a region-wide lease sale 256 scheduled for November 2020 and will be livestreamed.

7/16/2020 - G20 Commits \$Billions to Energy - G20 countries have committed at least \$267.1 billion to support different energy types through new or amended policies since the beginning of the pandemic, as of July 15, according to energypolicytracker.org. This includes \$120.56 billion for unconditional fossil fuels, \$72.22 billion for conditional clean energy, and \$30.25 billion for conditional fossil fuels.

7/15/2020 - LLOG places long-term bet on deepwater project despite recent downturn - LLOG Exploration specializes in deepwater production and expects to drill inside a discovery known as Taggart which sits 140 miles southeast of New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico under the Devils Tower Spar. The spar is owned by Williams, a publicly traded Tulsa, Oklahoma-based energy business.

7/13/2020 - The Wave Of Big Oil Write-Downs Is Far From Over - BP was first. The supermajor said last month that it could book asset write-downs of up to \$17.5 billion as a result of the industry crisis. Then it was Shell. The Anglo-Dutch company said earlier this week that it, too, would book sizeable write-downs on its assets, to the tune of \$22 billion.

7/14/2020 - Ecopetrol Awards Five-year Offshore Contract - Ecopetrol S.A. has contracted Doris Inc. as its consulting engineering company for offshore oil and gas development, Doris reported Monday. Under the five-year contract, Doris will provide Ecopetrol a variety of consulting engineering services. Doris explained the services will include studies, engineering and support as Ecopetrol executes offshore oil and gas development activities.

7/14/2020 - Market Update Oil Price News - OPEC+ will hold a committee meeting this week to assess the status of the oil market and decide on its next steps. For now, the group appears ready to begin unwinding the current production cuts, which could test the recent price rally. The historic cuts of 9.7MMbopd that OPEC+ implemented after the pandemic-related crash was always intended to be temporary. Initially, the cuts were set to expire at the end of June and begin tapering at the start of July; the group agreed to extend that first phase by a month. As of now, the cuts are slated to expire at the end of July, reducing the cuts from 9.7MMbopd to 7.7MMbopd.

7/8/2020 - EIA forecasts global stock draws through 2021 - The disruptions to global petroleum supply and consumption as a result of the 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and associated mitigation efforts have been significant. As road and air travel fell sharply when economies around the world went into lockdown in the first quarter and early second quarter of 2020, global liquid fuels consumption fell more quickly than production.

7/1/2020 - Byron Installs Gulf of Mexico Platform - Byron Energy has completed the installation of the SM71 G platform in the Gulf of Mexico. The installation of jacket and decks comprising the platform has been completed. The Triton Hedron derrick barge has de-mobilized off location after successfully installing the jacket over the SM58 G1 well ("G1") drilled in October 2019, then driving piles and finally installing the topside facility.

Submitted by Charles Miller, III



The *OCS BBS* Website

For 24 years, we have offered comprehensive website for critical oil & gas information for the Gulf of Mexico. **Visit our website to sign up for a phone demo today at www.ocsbbs.com.** Please call Charlie directly with questions at (504) 439-3164.



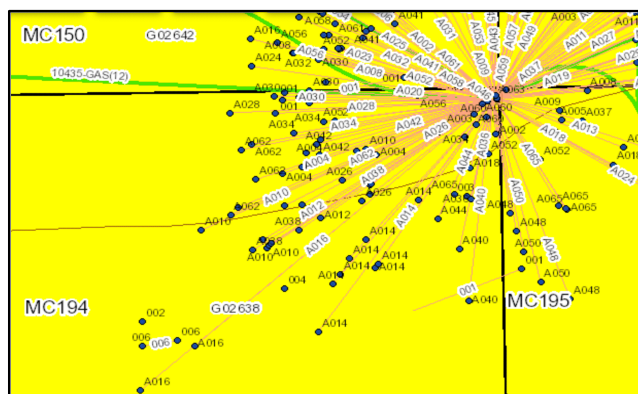
OWNER & OPERATOR REPORTS

Owner/Operator Report (Record Title, Operator & Operating Rights)

WELL, PLATFORM & PIPELINE REPORTS

1. Platform information report with details on the platform structure
2. Platform Decommission Reports
3. Track status and locations of wells
4. Daily Well Operations Report – Track current and future well operations scheduled to be performed daily for many operations like TA, PA, Initial Completions, Acidize, Casing Pressure Repair, Sidetrack/ByPass Change Zone and more.

GIS MAPPING SYSTEM – Easily view a map of your particular block(s) activity showing owners, operators, wells, platforms, pipelines, well directionals and more.



AND MUCH MORE!

US Natural Gas Consumption Set New Record in 2019

U.S. natural gas consumption increased by 3% in 2019, reaching a record of 85.0 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) recently released *Natural Gas Monthly*. New natural gas-fired electric capacity and lower natural gas prices led the increase in domestic natural gas consumption.

U.S. natural gas consumption grew in the electric power sector by 2.0 Bcf/d, or 7%, but remained relatively flat in the commercial, residential, and industrial sectors. Exports by pipeline to Mexico and as liquefied natural gas (LNG) grew by 0.5 Bcf/d and 2.0 Bcf/d, respectively. In 2019, the electric power sector consumed 31.0 Bcf/d, or 36%, of total domestic U.S. natural gas consumption. Natural gas-fired electric capacity additions grew in 2019, especially in the PJM Interconnection, which serves the U.S. mid-Atlantic region.

Natural gas continues to account for the largest share of electricity generation after first surpassing coal-fired generation on an annual basis in 2016. In 2019, natural gas accounted for 38% of total electricity generation, followed by 23% for coal and 20% for nuclear. New natural gas generation capacity additions have continued to displace coal-fired power plants; about 5% of the total existing U.S. coal-fired capacity was retired in 2019.

Weather largely drives annual and monthly fluctuations in natural gas consumption. During the winter, U.S. natural gas consumption levels are at their highest because natural gas is the predominant fuel for space heating in the residential and commercial sectors. In 2019, demand for natural gas as a heating fuel was similar to 2018 demand.

Natural gas consumption has a smaller peak in the summer when demand for air conditioning, and therefore electricity, is greatest. In the summer of 2019, relatively high temperatures increased electricity usage and natural gas consumption. The United States set a monthly record for U.S. electric power sector consumption of 41.1 Bcf/d in July 2019, then surpassed that level to reach 41.6 Bcf/d in August. The electric power sector has been shifting toward natural gas in the past decade because of competitive natural gas prices and power plant technology improvements.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Monthly*

Connections to Acadian Region Brought Cajuns to Westwego, Nearby West Bank Communities (submitted by Sylvia Hohmann)

Locals are quick to point out to visitors that, despite the trappings of certain tourist enterprises, New Orleans is not a Cajun city — that Cajuns historically settled well west of the metropolis, and that this largely rural ethnic group should not be confused with the Creole society of New Orleans. It's a point worth making — but not overstating.

There is one corner of the modern metropolis where Cajuns and other coastal peoples have interacted economically for nearly 200 years, and have resided for over a century. It's in the Westwego area, the spot where greater New Orleans nearly abuts the "Acadian Triangle," those 22 contiguous parishes where most Cajuns live.

This French-Canadian ethnic group first arrived in Louisiana after a years-long diaspora following their expulsion by the English from the Acadie region in Nova Scotia during the French and Indian War.

Starting in 1766, Spanish administrators in Louisiana, who sought to increase the colony's population, offered the Acadiens land grants west of New Orleans. Understanding that the area had a Catholic Francophone society, many took the offer, forming what would become known as the Côte de Acadiens.

In the decades to come, the Acadiens spread throughout south-central Louisiana, from the Barataria Bay westward to the Attakapas prairies and as far north as Marksville. The French demonym Acadiens got corrupted to 'Cadiens and eventually anglicized to Cajuns, a term that in Louisiana today is generally synonymous with Acadians.

A Cajun Pipeline

What brought Cajuns to Westwego was a new connection between the Acadian region and what was then called the "right bank" of New Orleans — today's West Bank.

In 1829, a consortium of planters and merchants won state approval to form the Barataria and Lafourche Canal Co. Using a sliver of Camille Zeringue's plantation on Nine Mile Point, the company aimed to excavate a channel to Bayou Segnette, through lakes Cataouatche and Salvador, and southwestwardly to Bayou Lafourche and beyond. The channel would also access Barataria Bay and the fishing villages of Chênière Caminada and Grand Isle.

In between were vast stocks of cypress timber, Spanish moss, shells for making mortar, game, fur-bearing animals, and estuarine waters abounding in finfish and shellfish. The mostly Francophone ethnic groups who worked these environs included Houma, Chitimacha, and other native groups; Creoles of various racial backgrounds; those of German, Spanish and African descent; and of course Cajuns.

Using enslaved labor and state subsidies, the B & L Canal Co. dug its way to Bayou Segnette in the early 1830s. By 1841, it reached Bayou Lafourche, where it built a lock, giving rise to today's Lockport. The waterway became known as the "Company Canal."

At the same time, a few miles to the east, neighboring planter Nicholas Noel Destréhan set about to create a similar waterway, this one pointed southward toward the island communities. Started in 1839 with the use of Irish contract labor, the Destréhan Canal opened in 1844, bringing Barataria Bay resources to what is now Harvey. The waterway would later be renamed for Joseph Hale Harvey, husband of Nicholas Destréhan's remarkable daughter Louise, who in her elder years would bring the company into the modern era.

Together, the Company Canal and Harvey Canal enabled coastal resources — oysters, crabs, shrimp, fish and game as well as timber, moss, shells, and other raw materials — to flow inland on small steamboats, luggers, barges, skiffs, bateaus, and pirogues.

The Harvey Canal gave rural Baratarians access to the urban market, while the Company Canal, because it reached deep into the Acadian areas, became something of a Cajun pipeline into the Creole city.

Making Tracks

The canals would soon get competition from railroads, starting in the 1850s and especially after the Civil War. In 1869, the New Orleans, Mobile and Texas Railroad aimed to connect north Texas with Mobile by building tracks on both banks of New Orleans, with a train ferry crossing the river.

The railroad company decided to build its tracks alongside the Company Canal to the Mississippi River, forming a key intermodal transportation node they dubbed “West-We-Go,” to herald the new westward access. The facility was completed in 1870, after which the operation would become known as the Texas & Pacific Railroad. In time, the catchy name got truncated to “Westwego,” and came to imply the adjacent settlement.

With trains ushering in cargo from the west, a canal bringing in seafood from the south, and busy wharves on the Mississippi, Westwego developed an industrial base. Some coastal families who previously did business here came to settle for the job opportunities.

In 1892, a 65-year-old Spaniard named Pablo Sala purchased part of the Zeringue plantation and laid out lots immediately adjacent to the Company Canal. “Salaville” would become the historic heart of Westwego, and among its first residents were African American families who were previously enslaved on Zeringue’s plantation. They formed the True Vine Baptist Church, which still operates on Sala Avenue today.

By 1893, up to 200 people lived in Salaville and Westwego, three-quarters of whom were African American.

Winds of Change

In October of that year, a hurricane struck Barataria Bay, wreaking havoc on Chênière Caminada and killing over 800 residents.

To the rescue came the people of the West Bank, who had intimate ties to the devastated region, and the means to get there.

Canal owner Horace Harvey, son of Joseph and Louise Destréhan Harvey, guided a vessel down the Harvey Canal and arrived to find “hordes of haggard and starving people [with] ungovernable damnable thirst,” according to an Oct. 6, 1893 report in the New Orleans Item. More rescue operations followed, sponsored by churches, social clubs, newspapers, businesses, relief committees, even theaters and music academies.

But the vessels bringing relief to the coast soon found themselves transporting refugees from the coast. Storm victims had every reason to leave: their fishing fleet had been obliterated, and the oyster reefs were buried in sand.

With nothing to go back to and nothing left to lose, many storm victims cast their eyes to the one part of greater New Orleans with which they had familiarity: Westwego and Harvey, at the heads of the Company and Harvey canals.

The Harvey family granted space along their waterway as a temporary encampment, to which the Sisters of Charity distributed donated supplies. By October 9, up to 74 Chenier families were taking refuge along the Harvey Canal. The number would later grow to 126 families.

Pablo Sala by this time had subdivided Salaville, and lots could be bought cheaply. By late 1894, 20 refugee families had built homes on or near Sala Avenue. Kin settled nearby, some on houseboats moored up and down the Company Canal and into Bayou Segnette.

The refugees and later migrants would impart to the West Bank a lasting cultural change, as they were mostly Acadian, with varying amounts of Houma, Creole, and other bloodlines. Their names were a who’s-who of Louisiana Cajun clans: Terrebonne, Pitre, Chabert, Guedry (Guidry), Bourdro (Boudreaux), Gaspard, Ducos, Broussard, plus a few of Italian, Spanish, Croatian and Anglo origin.

The 1893 storm is a case study of the tendency of disasters to prompt demographic change. It made Westwego and adjacent communities the closest greater New Orleans would have to a “Cajun neighborhood.”

A 1942 Tulane thesis by Edwin Ney Bruce estimated that Westwego’s population had nearly tripled after the 1893 storm, to about 500. “Most of the people speak a French dialect,” wrote Bruce of the community in the early 1940s. “Even the people who speak Spanish speak French also, [namely] Creole and Arcadian (‘Cajun’).... The High School offers a course in Classical French, but it is not generally popular.”

'Market' Forces

Around this same era, as technology advanced in refrigeration and rail networks expanded, demand soared for Louisiana seafood. Westwego became greater New Orleans' "cannery row," taking advantage of its canals, railroads, and coastal-savvy denizens.

The nucleus of the seafood processing scene was Sala Avenue at 2nd Street, where Durac Terrebonne's Fishermen's Exchange, a crab meat processor, a shrimp factory, two ice manufacturers, a cold storage unit, and a seafood retailer operated, all within a block of the Company Canal fish wharf and shed.

By the 1940s, five major processors employed 567 people in Westwego (population 5,000), of whom 83% were women and nearly 60% were Black. Most spoke French.

Wartime ship-building jobs attracted additional Cajuns and other coastal peoples to the metro area, as did the oil and gas industry.

Into the late 20th century, the Westwego census tract comprising old Salaville and the former Company Canal enumerated 2,952 residents who claimed French as their "mother tongue," meaning the main language of one's childhood home, by far the most throughout the metropolis. Adjacent tracts in Westwego, Marrero and Harvey also had high numbers.

According to the 2000 Census, more people claimed "French" ancestry in parts of Westwego, Marrero, and Harvey down to Lafitte, than anywhere else in the metro area. The 2013-2017 American Community Survey showed that the heart of Westwego was the only census tract in the metro area in which a measurable percentage of respondents (7.05 %) identified "Cajun" as their ancestry. Combined with those who claimed "French" ancestry, as many Cajuns do, fully one out of every three residents claimed this heritage, among the highest rates in the metropolis.

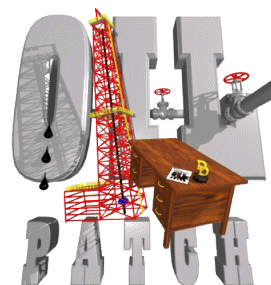
While Cajun French is no longer heard in the streets of Westwego, Cajun ethnicity is very much present. Names like Pitre and Terrebonne are still prominent, and Durac Terrebonne's Fishermen's Exchange is still standing, though it's now home to the Westwego Historical Museum and Society. A walk around the Westwego Shrimp Lot, with its open-stall vendors of fresh seafood and the nearby fishing fleet on Bayou Segnette, is like a trip to Acadiana practically within sight of downtown skyscrapers.

And while the seafood market's address is on the West Bank Expressway, it aligns precisely with the now-filled front end of the circa-1830 Company Canal, the area's original connection to the Côte de Acadiens.

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The logo for ADDc is an oval with a gold border and a dark blue background. The letters "ADDc" are written in a gold, serif font.



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