

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

"Here Shall The Press The People's Rights Maintain, Unawed by Influence and Unbribed by Gain."

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## MELVILLE FIGHTING FOR JEFFERSON ROAD

Citizens of Fourth Have Road District Created for That Purpose

TAX WILL BE VOTED AND NATIONAL HIGHWAY SECURED

Progressive Citizens And Taxpayers of the Fourth Ward Readily Seize This Opportunity

The citizens and property owners of the Melville-Palmetto section of St. Landry parish are working with unanimous accord to secure the Jefferson National Highway, which will connect Winniepe, Canada, with New Orleans.

The progressive citizens of Melville saw the opportunity knocking at their door and they immediately urged the president of the Melville Progressive League, Dr. Lester J. Williams, to communicate with the organizers of the national highway, relative to having the Jefferson highway cross the Atchafalaya River at Melville.

Dr. Williams and other boosters, including Gordy Richard, J. B. Babington Dr. Joseph and many others, immediately set to work, sent in the \$100 bonus and got Melville on the Jefferson highway map.

Following is an interesting letter to The Jefferson Highway Declaration, from Dr. Williams, president of the Melville Progressive League, which aptly presents the arguments which won for Melville the Jefferson highway:

Gentlemen: At this time we are forming a road district to connect Melville with Palmetto, a distance of ten miles, which when completed will finish a direct line from Alexandria through Bunkie to Melville, and are lending our assistance to the section across the Atchafalaya River in their endeavor to establish a road district to build a road from Red Cross, the settlement directly across the river from Melville, to Ravenswood, three miles away. This will complete a direct route from Port Allen to the Atchafalaya River.

The census of 1910 gives Melville 1,500 inhabitants and we now number about 4,500. She has more paved sidewalks than any other town of her size in the state. An electric plant recently completed gives a perfect service both day and night. Melville's high school ranks with the best in the state both as to building and equipment. A splendid faculty of teachers do most effective work and gives Melville each year an honor capturing graduating class.

Geographically Melville is almost direct upon an air line from Baton Rouge to Alexandria, being the town of most importance on the Atchafalaya it furnishes the most desirable point for the Jefferson Highway to cross the Atchafalaya River. We have an efficient ferry service with a fixed tariff regulated by the board of Aldermen of Melville, and being under the control of the town will meet all demands upon it.

Our hotels are excellent, with ample room to accommodate the traveling public, reasonable prices are charged, typical southern cooking and expert service are found in all of Melville's hostleries.

Just as soon as we are notified that Melville has been designated as an official point on the Jefferson Highway, you are at liberty to draw on us for the customary hundred dollar contribution to the Jefferson Highway fund. (Melville is an official point, Ed.)

We are enclosing herewith several subscriptions to the Jefferson Highway Declaration from our citizens of the town, and are enclosing exchange sufficient to pay for the list.

With expressions of high esteem and best wishes for the success of your highly valued publication, I am,

LESTER J. WILLIAMS, M. D., President Melville Progressive League.

April 6, 1916.  
The taxpayers of the Melville-Palmetto section have had the police jury create a road district so that a model road can be erected connecting Melville and Palmetto. It is reported that the tax will be passed with very little opposition, if there is any at all.

MRS. PAVY IMPROVING

Mrs. Alfred Pavy, aged mother of Judge B. H. Pavy and Raoul J. Pavy, who was stricken seriously ill, recently is reported as improving and is on the rapid road to recovery. The many friends of the Pavy family were shocked when they were told of the illness of Mrs. Pavy.

## BULL MOOSER TO RUN FOR CONGRESS RUMOR

REPORT OF OPPOSITION TO DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE TAKING DEFINITE FORM AND PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATE MAY COME OUT

It is rumored in the seventh congressional district, which is represented in congress by Dr. Ladislav Lazaro, of St. Landry, that a candidate for congress on the Bull Moose ticket will be in shape for the race next November.

The seventh district went for the democratic nominee by a small majority, thus giving hopes to the Parker supporter that a strong man, advocating the same principles as did Parker in the recent gubernatorial campaign, could make a splendid race, and might land, after all.

The democrats, on the other hand, feel confident that the district is in no danger whatever of being carried by the Progressive candidate; that many good democrats voted for John M. Parker, only on account of what he advocated and not because he opposed the democratic nominee; they claim that a large number of those who vote a democratic ticket, because question of national importance will be the guide to the voter.

The fight between democratic candidates promises to be full of excitement, as four of the best known district politicians are being spoken of as aspirants, and in fact are avowed candidates.

Dame rumor has it, also, that Leon Locke, spoken of as a "sure enough" candidate will probably

pull down in favor of one of the candidates from Calcasieu, while friends of the well known Calcasieu lawmaker claim that he will be in the race to stay.

Although it is rumored that Acadia may decide to send a favorite son in the fight, it is very improbable that the list of candidates will be lengthened.

If the progressives, or the Parkers would decide to put a candidate in the field it is very likely that an interesting race would take place although the democrats have no fear whatever of the ultimate outcome.

The Shreveport Times speaking of the reported prospect in the seventh district says: The majority for democracy in the entire district was something like a hundred and the Bull Moosers announce that this can be overcome. With the state contest out of the way, however, they will discover that making anything like this showing for a congressman in the seventh district is an impossible task—and for several reasons. The chief of which is that by the time congressional election day comes around there will be no such thing as a national Progressive party, and the man who opposes the Democratic candidate will have to sail under his true colors—that of the Republican organization."

## BAR EXPRESSES REGRET AT BAILEY'S DEPARTURE

Opeolousas Lawyers Will Feel Loss of Valuable Employee of District Court

The Opeolousas bar has passed resolutions deploring the departure of Charles F. Bailey, for a number of years efficient minute clerk of the sixteenth judicial district court. Mr. Bailey was popular with the local lawyers and being very competent his departure will be sorely felt.

Mr. Bailey goes to Baton Rouge as assistant to his brother, James J. Bailey, Secretary of State. He has a number of friends in the capital city and will undoubtedly "make good" in his new position.

Following are the resolutions of the local bar:

Whereas, the fortunes of public service have called to other and larger fields, Hon. Charles F. Bailey, Minute Clerk of the Sixteenth Judicial District Court, and he has tendered his resignation as such, and

Whereas, his services as Minute Clerk have been prompt, efficient and uniformly courteous, and while the bar congratulates him on his good fortune and deserved promotion, still it is with profound regret that we witness his departure from our midst.

Be it resolved, That this Bar tenders to him its profound appreciation for his long, patient and faithful service to it and the public and desires to convey to him its best wishes for his career in his new field of endeavor.

Be it further resolved, That copies of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this Court and handed to the local papers for publication.

P. R. SANDOZ, Chairman.  
JNO. W. LEWIS.  
R. LEE GARLAND.  
FLORENCE KELLEY.

## ABOLITION OF THE FEE SYSTEM URGED BY JURY

St. Landry Police Jury Urges Passage of Law Putting Offices on Salary Basis

The police jury of St. Landry parish went on record Monday morning in favoring the passage of certain laws, abolishing the fee system and all useless and unnecessary offices.

A resolution to that effect, was unanimously adopted and ordered in the minutes. The police jurors who urged the adoption of the measure, chiefly Mr. Sam Evans and Dr. F. O. Pavy, claimed that the resolution contained only certain clauses, advocated by both candidates for governor.

Emare Lafuer is spending several days in Mineral Wells, Texas, having gone there last week, in search of health.

## NEW LAWMAKERS TO CONVENE ON MONDAY

Legislature Will Begin Its Work at Baton Rouge Next Week

DUPRE, EASTHAM, SANDERS TO REPRESENT ST. LANDRY

Louisiana's New Legislature Has Many Important Measures to Pass in Sixty Day Session

The newly elected legislature of Louisiana will convene at Baton Rouge on next Monday. This session will be numbered among the most important since the days of reconstruction, as many grave and important matters are expected to come up for consideration.

The legislature is not expected to get down to real work the first week as the election of speaker of the house, president pro tem of the senate and appointments of various chairmanships and committees will probably take considerable time. Governor Pleasant will be inaugurated on the 15th, so his legislature is not expected to do much until he assumes full charge of governmental reigns.

St. Landry will be ably represented in Judge Gilbert L. Dupre, E. K. Eastham and James Sanders. The three men who were elected to guard the interests of this parish are fully competent and will no doubt attend to their business.

Judge Dupre is slated to be head of one of the judiciary committees in the House; he is a recognized leader, and being an old member will render valuable service to his parish and state. The other two representatives are expected to distinguish themselves, while Leon S. Haas and Homer Barousse, in the Senate, will continue working as conscientiously and as well as they have in the past.

The fight for speakership, between Oewit Bouchaud, of Point Coupee, T. Sambola Jones of East Baton Rouge and Mr. Alexander of Rapides, promises to be interesting. Politicians, however, have it doped out that Bouchaud who has stood by Governor-elect P. L. S. A. N. T. through three fights, has the inside track and will undoubtedly receive the personal recommendation of Governor Pleasant. Jones, however, is still figured strongly, while Alexander's friends maintain that he will fight to the very last ditch.

In the Senate there will be no fight for president pro tem, as it is generally understood that Senator Stafford, of New Orleans, will be accorded the unanimous vote of the senators.

VERNON A. COCO WILL SUCCEED JUDGE GONDRAIN

Son of Attorney General Will Be Assistant to His Father

Judge A. Y. Coco, of Marksville, attorney general elect, has set all rumors as to appointments in his office to rest, by announcing that he would appoint his son, Vernon A. Coco of Marksville as assistant in the attorney general's office, occupying the place held by the late G. A. Gondrain.

This announcement was made when he informed Judge Prentice B. Carber of Franklinton that he could not appoint him to the assistantship. Judge Coco will reappoint Harry P. Gamble of Winnfield, and W. W. Barrow of Baton Rouge, as the other assistants. Miss Esther Schlessinger, at present stenographer in the Coco law offices at Marksville, will be stenographer to the attorney general.

ST. CHARLES-JEFFERSON GAME IMPORTANT ONE

Baseball Contest to Take Place Here To-Morrow To Be Witnessed By Large Crowd

The St. Charles-Jefferson game, which will take place at Comeaux's Park, on Sunday afternoon, promises to be one of the most exciting and interesting ones ever staged here.

The St. Charles club has one of the best records of any team which has represented the historic college on the diamond. Jefferson is the only college in the state which has defeated Louisiana State University.

A large crowd from the surrounding country and from Lafayette will witness the game and if the weather is favorable the contest will produce excitement for a very large crowd of baseball lovers.

John Buie, of Alexandria, spent a couple of days here during the week, attending to business.

## SUGGESTS FIGHT FOR JEFFERSON HIGHWAY

PROMINENT REAL ESTATE DEALER BELIEVES OPELOUSAS HAS SPLENDID CHANCE OF GETTING ON THE NATIONAL ROAD

Some weeks ago, J. G. Lawler, prominent real estate dealer of this city, began the agitation for the Jefferson Highway, but the people of this city being too much occupied with politics did not give this important matter serious consideration. Now, however, it is believed by a large number that Opeolousas can secure the Jefferson Highway and some of the police jurors and city officials are in favor of bringing up the question before the organizers of the national highway.

A massmeeting is urged to discuss the matter fully and it is the consensus of opinion that if the people of this surrounding country will co-operate and fight together the Jefferson highway will pass through Opeolousas and Washington.

Following is an open letter addressed to the people of this parish by Mr. Lawler, who has been working along with the progressive planters of Pointe Coupee endeavoring to arouse public interest in the Jefferson Highway:

Opeolousas, May 4th.  
To the Progressives and Democrats of St. Landry and Especially of Opeolousas.

We have all used our energy and ability and what little money we could get, to try and elect the man of our choice for the purpose of improving conditions. Many of us differed but the time is at hand when we can all agree as to a plan to improve conditions and materially help ourselves, our parish, and our town, with half the time, energy and thought we used in the last campaign. Now, why not show our good faith and do it; you naturally ask what is the proposition? It is going after and getting the Jefferson Highway for Opeolousas. This great National Highway will run through Shreveport, Alexandria and Baton Rouge to New Orleans. It is said Bunkie

Palmetto and Melville will be on this important road. I sincerely hope they will. Should we not try to secure its passage by Opeolousas? I have had this matter up with Pointe Coupee people, Alexandria people and talked to some of our home people, but Opeolousas people seem indifferent. The Pointe Coupee people had meetings and expect to vote a tax; Natchitoches has voted a tax; Natchitoches has voted a tax; why not co-operate with the Bayou Boeuf people and build a good road from Washington to Gold Dust to connect with the Avoyelles roads. They have voted a parish tax for good roads. This Great Highway through Opeolousas would be near enough to Lafayette, Crowley and other Southwest Louisiana towns to serve more people than any other feasible route from Alexandria to Baton Rouge and would be but little if any longer route. There are many reasons to be given in favor of the Opeolousas route. Should we favor and advocate them?

The reading public cannot claim that they do not know of this road or part of the plans as the daily papers have had articles on the subject more than once and a book or pamphlet now in the possession of Mr. Healey, Clerk of the Police Jury, with map of this route, name of towns along proposed route, pictures, etc., but but have heard of no official action taken by the police jury except granting the Melville people their request for a special road district. I would suggest as neither the police jury nor city council has taken the lead that Mr. Mornhinweg, President of the Progressive League call a meeting of the citizens and taxpayers of Opeolousas immediately and let them say whether or not we want this improvement.

Respectfully,  
J. G. LAWLER.

## DRAINAGE ENTHUSIASTS WORKING FOR VICTORY

Entire Parish Is Interested in Approaching Drainage Tax Election in Sixth Ward

The drainage tax which will come up at the election on May 16th is arousing considerable interest throughout the parish. Drainage enthusiasts believe that if the taxpayers of the Plaquemine Point section of the parish vote favorably on the proposition and if the work is accomplished it will not be long before drainage work in every portion of St. Landry will be started in earnest.

A campaign is being waged from house to house, interesting every eligible voter to go to Boone's store on the day of the tax election and cast his vote in favor of the measure.

The property owners of the upper portion of the district, residing around Lawtell, say that if conditions are the same throughout the district as around their neighborhood the passage of the measure is no question whatever.

LARGE NUMBER TAKE IN EXCURSION TO BEAUMONT

Sunday's Trip to Texas City Made By A Large Crowd from Here

A large number of people took in the excursion to Beaumont, Texas on last Sunday. The trip rate was very small, thus inducing several hundred people from the surrounding country to view the progressive Texas city.

As usual the excursion was taken in by a large crowd of negroes, but quite a number of white people patronized the Gulf Coast first excursion of the season to Texas.

J. B. Babington, Gordy Richard, Dr. Lester Williams and Mr. Anderson all of Melville, motored to Opeolousas on Monday to urge the creation of a road district, embracing that portion of the parish lying between Palmetto and Melville.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sanders have returned after a two week's vacation to Marlin, Texas. Mr. Sanders, who will represent St. Landry in the legislature left on Thursday for New Orleans, after which he will go to Baton Rouge to answer the first roll call of the law makers.

## DEMOCRATS WILL MAKE DESPERATE FIGHT IN 3rd

Whit Martin's Seal Is Sought by Democrats in Third District

Politics in the Third District is brewing and a heavy cloud seems to be hovering over the head of the only progressive congressman from Louisiana.

Democratic leaders of every parish in the district, carried by John M. Parker, progressive candidate for governor, have centered their political energy towards the destruction of Representative Whit Martin. A desperate fight will be waged and it is expected that the man to face Judge Martin in the November election will be unanimously nominated.

Several aspirants are in the field and the probabilities are that the strongest of these will be picked by the democrats to make the race.

The fight in the third district will be watched with interest by practically every voter in Louisiana.

COLUMBUS KNIGHTS TO INITIATE BIG CLASS

Local Council Will Put Through A Number of Candidates on Sunday, May 14th

The local council of Knights of Columbus will hold initiatory ceremonies in this city on Sunday, May 14th, and will put through a large class.

A large number of Knights of Columbus from Eunice, Ville Platte, Crowley and other points nearby will be here to see the local boys "ride the goat."

On Sunday, May 21st, the Opeolousas Knights will be the guests of the Lake Charles council. There will be a large number of Calcasieu's young men who will be initiated. Special train accommodation, will no doubt be secured, to take the Opeolousas crowd to the Calcasieu metropolis.

Armas Sylvestre of Plaisance, Barousse Beaudry of Coules Croche, and Allen McCoy of Mallet, were among the prominent out-of-town visitors to Opeolousas during the meeting of the police jury on Monday.

## ST. LANDRY MAKES GOOD SHOWING

Eunice and Washington Track Teams Do Well at Lafayette

OPELOUSAS GIRLS WIN FAST BASKETBALL GAME

Eunice High School Declared Champions of Southwest Louisiana at Track Meet

The Eunice team has once more brought laurels for its school, its town and its parish, by capturing the championship of the Southwest Louisiana Interscholastic Athletic Association at Lafayette on last Saturday, when the thirteenth annual school rally took place.

Although the honors of scoring the most individual points did not come to a St. Landry boy, as has been the custom in the three years past, this parish was exceedingly well represented in that score, as F. Story, of Eunice, was a close second to G. Conville, of New Iberia, who led the field, and F. L. Bailey, of Washington, was third.

Eunice won the T. M. Boisset championship cup for the third consecutive time and will now have permanent possession of it, thus adding to the Eunice championship cup contribution.

The Washington team through the efforts of young Bailey, who is recognized as one of the most promising track men in this state, won some distinction and made a better showing than ever before.

The Opeolousas girls, playing the championship game of basket ball with the Lake Charles club, were victorious and have been awarded the championship of Southwest Louisiana.

Young Story, who came out second at the Lafayette meet, promises to give the Eunice people as good work as the immortal Danna Jenkins, who brought many honors to the high school of the western St. Landry metropolis.

## CATLETT ENTERTAINS POLICE JURY FRIENDS

Popular Member from Fourth Ward Is Host of Committee at Rosa Country Home

K. T. Catlett, well known and energetic member of the fourth police jury ward, was a host to a number of his police jury friends on last Sunday. The party, journeying from here to pay a visit to the police juror from Rosa Station was composed of Frank Dimmick, president of the police jury, J. E. Dingley, member from the second ward, J. J. Healey, clerk of the police jury and R. Lee Garland, attorney for the jury. They had gone there to inspect the Texas & Pacific dam in Petit Prairie Bayou.

Those who participated in the day's frolic at the Catlett plantation were making their colleagues envious on Monday morning, by relating their good times. Had it not been for Mrs. Catlett's splendid cooking, however, those parish officials would not have enjoyed the day so well, although Mr. Catlett is regarded as one of the best entertainers in this parish. Messrs. Dimmick and company say Mrs. Catlett can put up one of the finest tables in this creole parish.

## PROMINENT COUPLE TO WED AT GRAND COTEAU

Engagement of Miss Laurence Sibille to Frank S. Barry Has Been Announced

Mrs. V. H. Sibille has announced the engagement of her daughter Miss Laurence to Mr. Frank S. Barry; the wedding will take place at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Grand Coteau, on Wednesday morning, May 17th, at seven o'clock.

The bride-elect is one of the most charming young ladies of the Grand Coteau-Sunset section of St. Landry, while Mr. Barry is well known in social and business circles of this parish. He is the cashier of the flourishing Sunset State Bank and is one of the most popular young men of Grand Coteau and Sunset.

## LIGHTNING STRIKES FIRE ALARM SYSTEM TUESDAY

Lightning struck the wires of the fire alarm system on Tuesday night, putting several boxes in the eastern portion of the city out of commission.

The fire company sent men on the scene early Wednesday morning and in a few hours the system was put back into tip top shape. The damage done was not costly, though it prevented the sending of a call from those boxes damaged.