

# GRADUATING EXERCISES



Of The

Ft. St. Leon Elementary School

FT. ST. LEON LA.

SUNDAY EVENING MAY 28, 1944

3:00 P. M.









# Scottville High School Faculity Spring of 1964

Top Row Left to Right

Clarence Marchand, Charles C. Calvin, Aline LaFrance, Melvin Robinson and Emanuel Prout Shirley Ross Calvin, (Name Unknown), Andre' Lawrence (Principal) Birdell Johnson, and Fred Patterson

Marie T. Melson, Elizabeth Sanders, Laura Busby, Mary Blair and Harriet S. Thomas Shirley Jones, Evelyn Johnson, Beatrice G. Duhe, Anita Randall, and Marie Smith



SCOTTVILLE-GRADE 4 & 5 1955-1956





It Lear Elem and Room school School Queer



77 Leon one lorm school



It St Lern School Parish





7 Gabriel Julianian Jurist 7 williams



marie TB melson

### Class Roll

Gabriel, Sherman Glenn, Joseph Gabriel, Myrtle Alice Philips, Aline Frances

Class Motto
"To Thine Ownself Be True"

Class Colors Garnet and Gold

Class Flower Rose and Fern The Faculty and Eighth Grade Class of 1955

of

Belle Chasse Elementary School request the honor of your presence at the

Graduating Exercises on Sunday afternoon, May 29th, 2:00 P. M.

at Israelite Baptist Church Belle Chasse, Louisiana

# BELLE CHASSE, LA

### Samuel Gabriel, Agent

Graduation exercises were held at Belle Chasse Riementary School on Sunday May 27 at 2 p. m. The invocation was given by Rev. G. Alexander, welcome address by Mr. Walter F. Stevenson; progress of Negroes by Ferrell Williamson; The Key to Success by Irvin P. Williamson; and the graduation address was delivered by Miss. Myrtle Banks, principal of Lawton School. She also awarded the certificates. Presentations were made by Miss Lillie M. Stevenson. Music was furnished by the Echoes and Miss Estelle Byrd. Mrs. Marie T. Nelson is principal. Members of the graduating class were Walter Freddie Stevenson, Irvin Penn Williamson and Ferrell James Williamson, The class motto was "We Climb As We Learn." The class colors, pea green and pink, and class flowers, carnation and fern. Tasty refreshments were served the graduates at the home of Mrs. Hunnah Williamson and the home of Mrs. Beatrice Steven-

# GRADUATION EXERCISES

of

### BELLE CHASSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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# SUNDAY, MAY 29, 1955

Processional Star Spangled Banner National Anthem Rev. G. Alexander Invocation School Come Thou Almighty King Aline F. Philips Oration of Welcome Joseph Glenn Psalms of School Life Myrtle A. Gabriel Solo Sherman Gabriel To Thine Ownself Be True Johnson Davidson Solo · Selection Myrtle A. Gabriel Tomorrow In America The Class Spirital Selection Mrs. Chorlotte Molliere Address School Negro National Anthem Mrs. Myrtle A. Weatherstrane Awarding Certificates The Class Graduating Song Presentation

Marie T. Bailey Melson, Principal





at Belle Chasse one Room sch Belle Chasse, Fa. The Eighth Grades gradesates Prinist, Speaker, and Minister Marie J. B. Melson, Teac



# Scottville High School Faculity

1955-1956

(Standing)

(Name Unknown) Andre' Lawrence, Shirley Ross Calvin, Harriet S. Thomas, Mary Blair, Emanuel Prout and William C Jones (Principal)

(Seated)

B.G. Duhe, Anita Randall, Marie T. Melson, Evelyn Sanders, Aline LaFrance, Emanuel Prout, (Name Unknown), Shirley Jones and Marie Smith.



### WE THE MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS

SCOTTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1963

WELEOME YOU

EDWARD WASHINGTON

VALEDICTORIAN

GRACE PARKER

SALUTATORIAN

"DUTY DETERMINES DESTINY"

CLASS ROSTER
ABSENT, HERMAN
BROOKS, JOSEPH
GREEN, HENRY
HALL, LOUIS
SYLVE, SHERMAN
JOHNSON, CAROLYN
PARKER, GLADYS
REDDICK, PATRICIA
REDDICK, VIRGIE LEE
SMITH, GLENDA

MRS. M. M. WASHINGTON, SPONSOR

### PROGRAHME

"MARCH FROM AIDA" PROCESSIONAL INVOCATION REV.FATHER EMMERAN FRANK O.F.M GRACE PARKER SALUTATORY CHORAL SERECTION "THE ROSARY" EDWARD WASHINGTON VALEDICTORY SOLO "OTHERS" GLENDA SMITH MISS A. LAWRENCE, PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER ACTING PRINCIPAL OF SCOTTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS MRS. MARGUERITE NIMTZ, PRIN-ALBERT WICKER SCHOOL "BATTLE HYAN OF REPUBLIC" CHORAL SELECTION PRESENTATION OF GRADU.TES TO THE SUPERINTENDENT MRS. A. C. LAFRANCE SUPT. S. A. MONCLA AWA: DING OF DIPLOMAS

SUPERINTENDENT MRS. A. C. LAFRANCE
AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS SUPT. S. A. MONCLA
CLASS SONG GRADUATES
BENEDICTION REV. ECKARD JOHNSON
STAR SPANGLED BANNER AUDIENCE
RECESSIONAL "GOD OF OUR FATHERS"

### PACULTY OF SCOTTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

MISS A. M. LAWRENCK, ACTING PRINCIPAL MR. F. PATTERSON MISS A. RANDALL MRS. M. B. SMITH MR. E. L. PROUT MRS. H. S. THOMAS MR. C. C. CALVIN MRS. S. R. CALVIN MRS. L. G. JONES MRS. M. G. BLAIR MRS. L. D. BUSBY MRS. E. H. JOHNSON MRS. S. R. JONES MRS. E. G. SAMDERS MISS B. JOHNSON MRS. B. G. DUHE MRS. M. M. WASHINGTON MRS. M. T. B. MELSON MRS. A. C. LAFRANCE



Just Kindergerten Greduation 31,1700 Juso may 31,1700

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MTB melon Stacker

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First Kindergarten Graduation Tuesday, May 21, 1968



Angelina Parker May 21, 1968



Wanda Johnson May 21, 1968

## STATE MINIMUN SALARY SCHEDULE FOR TEACHERS SESSION 1954-1955

Years of Experience	(Below 1 yr.)	l Year College	2 Years College	3 Years College	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree
0	\$1,600	\$1,900	\$2,200	\$2,500	\$2,800	\$2,900
1			2,300	2,600	2,900	3,000
2			2,400	2,700	3,000	3,100
3			(2,500)	2,800	3,100	3,200
4 .				2,900	3,200	3,300
5				9	3,300	3,400
6					3,400	3,500
7	and the second second				3,500	3,600
8					3,600	3,700
9					3,700	3,800
10					3,800	3,900
11					3,900	4,000
12					4,000	4,100
13					104	4,200
14						4,300
15		***				4,400
16						4,500
17						4,600
18						4,700
19	water in					4,800

### PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL CALENDAR SESSION 1968-1969

Thur August 22, 1968, 9:00 A. M.

Parish Wide Teachers' Meeting Port Sulphur High School Port Sulphur, Louisiana

Fr. August 23, 1968, 8:30 A. M.

Registration

Mor. August 26, 1968, 8:30 A. M.

Classes Begin

Mon. September 2, 1968 Fili. November 1, 1968

Labor Day

All Saints' Day

November 22, 1968, 3:15 P. M. to December 2, 1968, 8:30 A. M.

November 25-26-27--La. Teachers' Convention--November 28-29

Thanksgiving Holidays

December 20, 1968, 3:15 P. M. to More January 6, 1969, 8:30 A. M.

Christmas Holidays

Fri - January 17, 1969 Muon January 20, 1969

First Semester Ends

Second Semester Begins

February 14, 1969, 3:15 P. M. to February 20, 1969, 8:30 A. M.

Mardi Gras Holidays

Thurs, April 3, 1969, 3:15 P. M. to

Easter Holidays

Fru: May 30, 1969

Session Ends

Dates marking end of six-week grading periods and on which attendance reports are due:

> January 17, 1968
>
> November 15, 1968
>
> January 17, 1969
>
> March 5, 1969
>
> April 18, 1969 May 30, 1969

High School Commencement Exercises:

Thursday, May 22, 1969- -Buras and Sunrise High Schools Friday, May 23, 1969- - - Boothville-Venice High School Tuesday, May 27, 1969 - - Port Sulphur High School Wednesday, May 28, 1969 -Belle Chasse and Scottville High Schools Thursday, May 29, 1969- - Phoenix High School

Adopted by School Board - June 13, 1968

### PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL CALENDAR SESSION 1969-1970

August 21, 1969, 9:00 A. M.

Parish Wide Teachers' Meeting Port Sulphur High School Port Sulphur, Louisiana

August 22, 1969, 8:30 A. M.

Registration

August 25, 1969, 8:30 A. M.

Classes Begin

September 1, 1969

Labor Day

November 11, 1969

Veteran's Day

November 21, 1969, 3:15 P. M. to December 1, 1969, 8:30 A. M. November 24-25-26--La. Teachers' Convention--November 27-28 Thanksgiving Holidays

December 19, 1969, 3:15 P. M. to January 5, 1970, 8:30 A. M. Christmas Holidays

January 16, 1970

First Semester Ends

January 19, 1970

Second Semester Begins

February 6, 1970, 3:15 P.M. to February 12, 1970, 8:30 A.M. Mardi Gras Holidays

March 26, 1970, 3:15 P. M. to March 31, 1970, 8:30 A. M. Easter Holidays

May 29, 1970

Session Ends

Dates marking end of six-week grading periods and on which attendance reports are due:

October 2, 1969 November 14, 1969 January 16, 1970 March 4, 1970 April 17, 1970 May 29, 1970

High School Commencement Excercises:

Thursday, May 21, 1970- -Boothville-Venice High School Friday, May 22, 1970--- -Port Sulphur High School Tuesday, May 26, 1970-- -Belle Chasse and Scottville High Schools Wednesday, May 27, 1970 -Buras High School Thursday, May 28, 1970- -Phoenix High School

All Kindergarten Graduations will be scheduled during the last week of school by each Principal.

Adopted by Plaquemines Parish School Board - May 21, 1969

### PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL CALENDAR

### SESSION 1958-1959

August 27, 1958, 9:00 A. M.

White Teachers' Institute Port Sulphur High School Port Sulphur, Louisiana

August 27, 1958, 9:00 A. M.

Negro Teachers! Institute Sunrise High School Empire, Louisiana

August 28, 1958, 9:00 A. M.

Registration

August 29, 1958, 9:00 A. M.

Classes Begin

September 1, 1958

Labor Day

November 26, 1958, 3:30 P. M. to December 1, 1958, 8:45 A. M.

Thanksgiving Holidays

December 19, 1958, 3:30 P. M. to January 5, 1959, 8:45 A. M.

Christmas Holidays

January 16, 1959

First Semester Ends

January 19, 1959

Second Semester Begins

February 6, 1959, 3:30 P. M. to February 12, 1959, 8:45 A. M.

Mardi Gras Holidays

March 26, 1959, 3:30 P. M. to March 31, 1959, 8:45 A. M.

Easter Holidays

May 29, 1959

Session Ends

Dates Marking end of six-week grading periods and on which attendance reports are due:

October 8, 1958 November 19, 1958 January 16, 1959 March 4, 1959 April 17, 1959 May 29, 1959

High School Commencement Exercises:

Friday, May 22, 1959 ----Phoenix High School
Monday, May 25, 1959 ----Port Sulphur High School
Tuesday, May 26, 1959 ----Buras & Sunrise High Schools
Wednesday, May 27, 1959 ---Woodlawn High School
Thursday, May 28, 1959 ---Belle Chasse & Scottville High Schools

### PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL CALENDAR SESSION 1959-1960

August 26, 1959, 9:00 A. M
August 27, 1959, 9:00 A. MNegro Teachers' Institute Sunrise High School Empire, Louisiana
August 28, 1959, 9:00 A. MRegistration
August 31, 1959, 9:00 A. MClasses Begin
September 7, 1959Labor Day
November 20, 1959, 3:30 P. M. toNovember 23-24-25La. Teachers' November 30, 1959 ConventionNovember 26-27 Thanksgiving Holidays
December 22, 1959, 3:30 P. M. to January 4, 1960, 8:45 A. M
January 18, 1960Eirst Semester Ends
January 19, 1960Becond Semester Begins
February 26, 1960, 3:30 P. M. to March 3, 1960, 8:45 A. M
April 14, 1960, 3:30 P. M. to April 19, 1960, 8:45 A. MEaster Holidays
May 28, 1960Session Ends
Dates marking end of six-week grading periods and on which attend- ance reports are due:
October 7, 1959 November 18, 1959
January 18, 1960 March 3, 1960
April 14, 1960 May 28, 1960

High School Commencement Exercises:

Monday, May 23, 1960---Belle Chasse & Scottville High Schools
Tuesday, May 24, 1960--Port Sulphur High School
Wednesday, May 25, 1960-Buras & Sunrise High Schools
Thursday, May 26, 1960---Woodlawn High School
Friday, May 27, 1960----Phoenix High School

### PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL CALENDAR SESSION 1959-1960

August 26, 1959, 9:00 A. M
August 27, 1959, 9:00 A. MNegro Teachers' Institute Sunrise High School Empire, Louisiana
August 28, 1959, 9:00 A. MRegistration
August 31, 1959, 9:00 A. MClasses Begin
September 7, 1959Labor Day
November 20, 1959, 3:30 P. M. toNovember 23-24-25La. Teachers' November 30, 1959 ConventionNovember 26-27 Thanksgiving Holidays
December 22, 1959, 3:30 P. M. to January 4, 1960, 8:45 A. M
January 18, 1960Eirst Semester Ends
January 19, 1960Becond Semester Begins
February 26, 1960, 3:30 P. M. to March 3, 1960, 8:45 A. M
April 14, 1960, 3:30 P. M. to April 19, 1960, 8:45 A. MEaster Holidays
May 28, 1960Session Ends
Dates marking end of six-week grading periods and on which attend- ance reports are due:
October 7, 1959 November 18, 1959
January 18, 1960 March 3, 1960
April 14, 1960 May 28, 1960

High School Commencement Exercises:

Monday, May 23, 1960---Belle Chasse & Scottville High Schools
Tuesday, May 24, 1960--Port Sulphur High School
Wednesday, May 25, 1960-Buras & Sunrise High Schools
Thursday, May 26, 1960---Woodlawn High School
Friday, May 27, 1960----Phoenix High School

# First Annual Scottville High School Gathering

Date:

Saturday, November 22, 1997

Time:

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Place:

Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Shooting Range

Contact Persons: Marva Bailey

656-2435 Carlton Lafrance 564-2197 Audrey Salvant 656-2239 Louise Duplessis 347-4862 Beverly Hills

656-7466

Graduates, staff, and all persons (and their families) associated with Scottville High School from its opening in 1955 until its closing in 1971 are invited to attend the first "Scottville High School Gathering" to celebrate and to reminisce about the great times and the accomplishments of Scottville High.

Socializing with "old acquaintances" will begin as early as 8 AM. At 1:30 there will be a very important meeting to discuss plans for the First Annual Scottville High School Reunion.

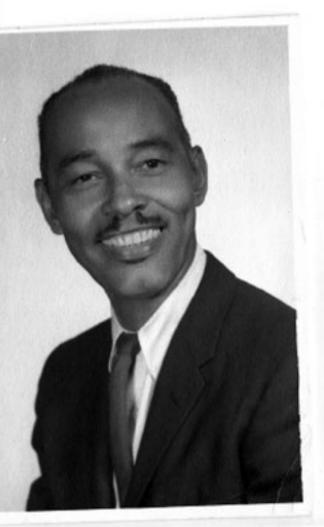
Each family or group is asked to bring its own picnic food and drinks. Music and games will be provided.

T-shirts are on sale from any contact person.

Please make every effort to attend this most meaningful Gathering. "Old acquaintances should never be forgotten."

We look forward to seeing you there!





# Wilbert Lodrig, 78, was teacher, coach

#### From staff reports

Wilbert J. "Twin" Lodrig Sr., a retired teacher and physical education coach with the Orleans Parish public school system, died Sept. 15 of liver cancer at his bome. He was 78.

Mr. Lodrig was a lifelong resident of New Orleans. He gradnated from Xavier Preparatory School and Xavier University.

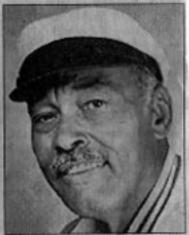
Mr. Lodrig taught at S.J. Peters Middle School; Sherwood Forest Elementary, Francis W. Gregory and Andrew J. Bell junior high schools; George W. Carver Junior and Senior High School; and Scottville High School in Scottville.

Mr. Lodrig also worked at Treme Community Center and was a volunteer with the New Orleans Mission, Kingsley House Fall Fest, the American Red Cross, Medard Nelson Elementary School adult education classes and the annual Twins Day Festival in Twinsburg, Ohio.

He was a corporal in the Army during World War II.

Mr. Lodrig was a member of St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church, the Xavier Prep Alumni Association, Xavier University Alumni Association, United Teachers of New Orleans and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He also was a member of the Autocrat Social and Pleasure Club, charter member of the Original Dukes Social and Pleasure Club, secretary of the Lion's Social and Pleasure Club and editor of the Autocrat Voice Newsletter.

Mr. Lodrig published numerous poems, including "Twins," "Not Charity Lord, Just a Chance," "Milestones" and "Colorblind." He created a pictorial tribute to Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong that was displayed at the Amistad Foundation dur-



Wilbert J. 'Twin' Lodrig Sr.

ing Armstrong's 100th birthday celebration.

Survivors include a son, Wilbert "Bert" J. Lodrig Jr.; a daughter, Wendy J. Lodrig, and a brother, Wilfred J. "Big Twin" Lodrig Sr.

A Mass will be said Monday at 11 a.m. at St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church, 4700 Pineda St. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m., and a Kappa memorial will be held at 9:20 a.m. A rosary will be said at 10:15 a.m. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery No. 3. Charbonnet-Labat Funeral Home is in charge of ar-

rangements.

# Plaquemines Parish now has a new history because African Americans are included.

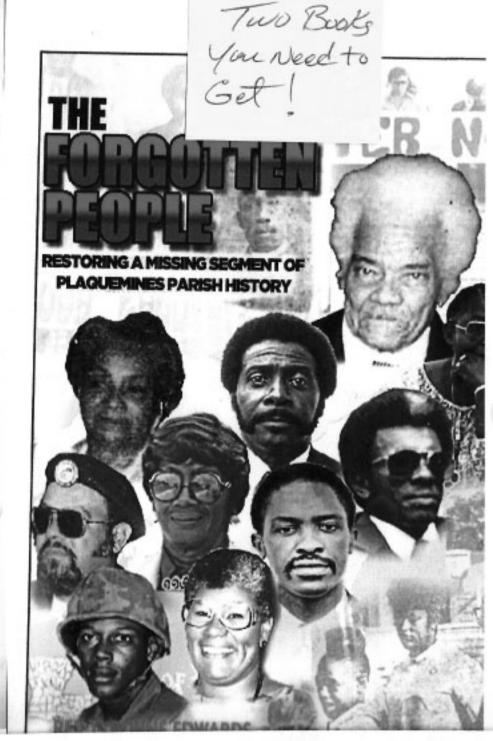


THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE: RESTORING A MISSING SEGMENT OF PLAQUEMINES PARISH HISTORY chronicles the little known, but inspiring achievements of African Americans to dismantle institutional racism in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, located at the end of the United States. Rev. Tyronne Edwards, a lifelong

resident of the parish, introduces the reader to people cultivating a spirituality that lifted them from the dehumanization of slavery on more than a dozen plantations. He recounts the state laws enacted by African Americans during the Reconstruction Era that would be considered progressive in this modern day. We meet the community leaders who outwitted and outlasted Judge Leander Perez, a fierce segregationist who reigned over Plaquemines Parish and state politics. We learn the battles waged by African American to knock down the doors of schools, businesses and government that were once closed to them. With photographs, interviews, and a penetrating analysis of racism, Rev. Edwards breathes life into the important historical record of African Americans in Plaquemines Parish who should never be forgotten.

# THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE RESTORING A MISSING SEGMENT OF PLAQUEMINES PARISH HISTORY

ISBN 478-1-5245-848-1 51999



The following are reflections and experiences with the Ministers of Education in Plaquemines Parish.



### Ruth Hill Simeon - Professor Hill granddaughter

My grandfather Garrison B. Hill made sure that people in St. Sophie (Phoenix) knew how to read and write. He walked door to door throughout St. Sophie teaching people how to read and write. He was always reading and writing. The best carpenters in St. Sophie used Papa GB to lay the foundation for all the houses

they build. Papa GB was a smart man. In fact the Hills men was the smartest men in St. Sophie and the Hills' women were the best cooks.



### Helen Miller Williams, Phoenix, LA

What was significant about going to the one-room Rosenwald School here in Phoenix, were the teachers—Ms. Olivia Taylor, Eleanor Cornin, Irene Espy Washington, and Pauline Clay Williams. The teachers would walk to school just like the students. The school had one of those pot belly stoves to keep us warm. The teachers spent their own money to purchase

supplies for us. The teachers equipped us to go anywhere in the world. They were more than teachers they were counselors, psychologists, social workers, and mentors. I left Rosenwald after completing 8th grade and then attended the English Turn School. At English Turn, I remember my teachers being Ms. Doyle, Mr. Barry Williams, Ms. Bernice Gardener, Mr. Pernell Long, and Ms. Quezerque. These dedicated teachers were responsible for me going on to Xavier University. It was amazing how they were able to teach four classes at one time. Our community owes these Ministers of Education a great debt of gratitude for their self-sacrifice. They are responsible for our communities being educated.



### Marion Alveris Reddick, Dalcour, LA

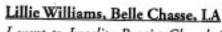
I went to elementary school at the Bethlehem Baptist Church around 1945. We didn't have any bus so everyone had to walk to school. We didn't have to walk that far to school. The people from Scandale had a further distance to walk. The church had a big iron belly stove in the middle to keep church warm. The boys had to get the wood from over the levee to be be the stools. Our teacher was Ms. Irene Espy and she would teach twent us. She would show the older students how to teach the younger ones. I Bethlehem Church after elementary school and went to Braithwaite F. School which used to be the school for white children before Woodle School was open. Between my education at Bethlehem Baptist Chi. School and Braithwaite High School I had some great teachers. They was Ms. Pearl Bailey and her sister Mable Bailey. They used to come across river in a boat and stay with Ms. Francis. There was Ms. Jordan, I lorence Augustine, Evelyn Augustine, and Ms. Mildred Doyle who plathe piano, Mrs. Daisy Randall, and Mrs. Bernice Sanders. The Prince of the Braithwaite High School was Mr. Barry Williams. The teachers we wall nice to us. They took their time with us, to make sure we all learne

### June Powell, Belle Chasse, LA



I went to school in the one-room school in Fort St. Le We walked from Villere Street to Fort St. Leon along railroad track. The school bus with a few white students it would pass us up every day. Since we had to walk all the railroad track, we would pick up coal to be used our iron stove at our school. Ms. Bailey was our teach

She was a great teacher. When the school was moved to the church [Israe. Baptist Church] the Parish Government didn't even supply our churchool with kerosene.





I went to Israelite Baptist Church School from the fi grade to eighth grade. Ms. M.T. Bailey was my teacher. S had a sister named Mable Bailey, who she taught Oakville. Ms. Bailey was very good teacher. She prepar us for life. She had to deal with a lot students. She had to older and higher grade students to teach the younger a.

lower grades. She was a dedicated teacher. We kept warm by the kerose stove. We had old hand-me-down desks and a large blackboard on the wa We had to take the desks out on Friday for Sunday's worship service. We went to school from Monday to Friday.



### Betty Wilson, Ironton, LA

I went to St. Paul Baptist Church School from first to eighth grade. I graduated in 1950. After St. Paul, I went to Braithwaite High School for little while. I had to drop out to take care of my mother. My teachers were Mrs. Randall, Ms. Florence Jordan, and Mrs. Susie Mae. These teachers were dedicated to make sure we learned. We had a wood stove in the church to keep us warm. We

didn't have to cut wood because the neighbor next to the church would give us chopped wood to use during school. We had wood benches and table to do our lessons. We took turns using them.



### Joycelyn Johnson, Oakville, LA

I attended a one-room school in Oakville up until the eighth grade. Our teachers were Ms. Jordan, Harriet Thomas, and Theresa Nelson. They were dedicated teachers. While we were all in one room, we were all taught our lessons. The older ones would teacher the lower grades. We had to help each other in our class. After graduating from Oakville School, I went to the Scottville

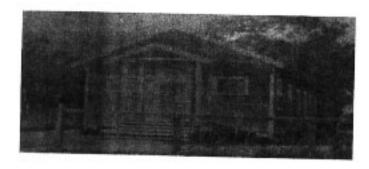
High School. I was a member of the first high school class for African-American at Scottville High School in the 1955. I was a member of the first students to graduate from Scottville High School.



### Espy Encalade, Jr. Pointe à la Hache, LA

I went to the Encalade School in Pointe à la Hache. Then I transferred to the Domingue School in Davant. Dominque was a two-room school building with living quarters for the teachers. We had to use an outhouse. We had a great teacher, Ms. Aline Lafrance. She was able to teach four classes of different age groups. The Domingue School had classes from first grade to eighth grade. When

the school first opened children had to walk three miles in the morning a evening and bring their own lunch. Rev. Oswald started having dances naw funds to operate the school. Fats Domino was one of the entertains who came down and performed at one of our fundraisers. The Doming Is hard used some of these funds to provide children with lunch. The scho was finally able to buy an old bus that children rode to school. Rev. Oswa some to our house and told my parents that he needed me to drive the scho him to pick up the children. I was only fifteen and didn't have a drive. hieror, but I was tall and knew how to drive. My parents agreed to let n draw the school bus. I brought children from Phoenix to school in Pointe la Harhe every day. I even drove the bus to Mississippi. One day M Infrance and Rev. Oswald told the students that they would petition the whool board to give them a high school because there now between 15-1 students. The students helped with the petition and the Plaquemines Paris In hand Board opened up the old Woodlawn School in Braithwaite for the black students. This school was once used only for white students and se omolemued.



The old Domingue School in Davant, LA. Land donated by Sophic Domingue.

School built with funds donated by Catherine Dresel.



### Preston C. Parker, III Port Sulphur, LA

I went to Potash School which was in the St. Joseph Church in Port Sulphur. After finishing the eighth grade I went to the Braithwaite High School on the East Bank. It was the first high school for African Americans in Plaquemines Parish. It was a condemned school building because the white students had left it to go to the new

all-white Woodlawn High School. We knew the school was condemned, but we finally had an African American high school. The students and teachers - all of us - would clean it up every day. While I was excited about going to Braithwaite High School, it hurt me to have to travel to the East Bank when Port Sulphur High School was within walking distance to my house. But I couldn't go to Port Sulphur High School because of the color of my skin. We used to catch the Old Missouri Pacific Bus to the Pointe à la Hache ferry and get on the school bus to Braithwaite High School. The school bus was provided by Rev. Oswald from Dominguez School in Davant. The school bus driver was Anthony McKinnie. We had some great teachers. One of my favorite teachers was Ms. Aline Celestine Liverance. She was very educated, and kind to all the students. She didn't take any stuff from anyone and she didn't show favoritism. Ms. Liverance made everyone learn who was in her class. She didn't play even if she knew your parents or went to church with you. She made sure we did our best at all times and she didn't settle for anything less. We also had some great cooks at the school. My proudest moment was when I graduated from English Turn/Braithwaite High School. It was great being a part of the first African American High School Graduation Class in Plaquemines Parish. There were sixteen of us: Katrine Isadore, Leona Sylva, Louise Sylva, Neil Sylva, Emily Williamson, Calvin Randall, Washington Thomas, Laura Brown, Earthwise Smith, Durand, Roland Robinson, Benny Mackey, Gloria Brown, Shirley William, and Alberta Picquet.

### Maxine Encalade, Pointe à la Hache, LA



My father, Harry Joseph Encalade, and my mother, Beatrice Soule' Encalade, donated land to the school board to build a two-room school for children living in the Pointe à la Hache and Bohemia communities. They named it the Encalade School. They had the school board to sign an agreement that if the school would no longer

be needed, then the land must be returned back to them. My parents let the teachers, Ms. Doyle and Santeria, live with them. The school went from first to sixth grade. The teachers back then didn't have computers, but they were better at teaching than the ones today. They were all dedicated and

taught penmanship and the fundamentals. When the Doninguez Sch in Davant got bus transportation, the Encalade School was disorded land was returned to my parents. I went to school in New Odians whe I attended Valene C. Jones School that was run by Prinsiphliffunnie Williams. I then graduated from Dillard University. I taughts whole for 1948-49 at the church school in a town called City Price in Odiqueni Parish. It was a three-room school. We had three teachers and we taught at parish at Dominguez School with Al. Liverance and Priscilla Randall. In 1956, I left Dominguez School at taught at Phoenix High School until I retired in 1987. The abilities taught are working in government and business and have been alkated state and local offices.

### Negro Schools in Plaquemines Parish June 30, 1942

Name of School	Registration	Pupils Membership	Teachers Employed
Little Rock	14	13	1
(Israelite B.C,)			
Ft. St. Leon	21	20	1
Triumph	30	25	1
Oakville	24	24	1
Bertrandville	24	22	1
(St. John B.C.)			
Dalcour	28	27	1
(Bethlehem B.C.)			
Sunrise	32	30	1
Ironton	36	35	1
(St. Paul B.C.)			
Grand Bayou	36	36	2
St. Jude	42	39	1
Nairn	40	40	1
English Turn	41	40	1
Pointe-ala-hache	50	45	1
(Encalade School)			
Happy Jack	48	45	1
Lady Bend	54	50	I
Dominique	88	70	2
Potash (St. Joseph)	66	65	2

Boothville	95	85	2
Buras	84	80	2
Phoenix	87	85	2
Rosenwald School			
City Price	103	100	3
Total	1043	976	28

### Compiled from the LA Secretary of Education Report

The African American communities of Plaquemines Parish ow great debt of gratitude to these Ministers of Education for equipp a generation with an educational foundation that prepared student go anywhere in the world. They were more concerned about educat the children than the money.

### Plaquemines Parish's Ministers of Education



Olivia Taylor



Mable Augustu



Mable Bailey



M. T. Baile



Nathaniel Poindexter



Eleanor Griffin Cornin



Daisy Randall



Barry Williams



Derothy A. Coleman



Aline Lafrance



Maxine Excalorle



Louise Catalon

### Ministers of Education in Plaquemines Parish

Ms. Florence Jordan Oakville School

Ms. Evelyn Harvey Domingue School

Ms. Irene Espy Washington

Ms. Eglontine Ancar Pointe à la Hache School

Ms. Ethel Jones

Ms. Leah Washington

Ms. Eva Lindsey Lady Bend School

Ms. Mildred Doyle Bertranville School in St. John

Baptist Church

Ms. Essic Jones English Turn School

Ms. Marguerite Davis Encalade School

Ms. Marie R. St. Ann Triumph School

Ms. Esther Smith Sunrise School

Ms. Rosemary Baker Boothville School

Ms. Letha Hilliard

Louise LaMothe Potash School in St. Joseph

Baptist Church

Beatrice Hansell

Ms. Susie Mae Andry Ironton School in St. Paul

Church

Ms. Morine L. Johnson Mackey Nairn School

Ms. Elaine Romain Happy Jack School

Ms. Bernice Sanders Dalcour School in Bethlehem

Baptist Church

#### REV. TYRONNE EDWARDS

### 1966 "Freedom's Children": Segregation is not forever! Integration of Plaquemines Parish Public Schools

In 1966 Herbert Christenberry, a federal judge, ordered the Plaquemines Parish School Board to desegregate their public schools beginning with the 1966-67 school years. Judge Christenberry ordered that the first, seventh, tenth, and twelfth grades, plus two other grades chosen by the board be open immediately to students regardless of their race. A subsequent order required all grades from kindergarten through 12 to be desegregated for the 1967-68 school year.

At the time of the 1966 federal court order, Plaquemines Parish had eight public schools. Five of these schools were closed to African Americans and attended only by white students. The all-white schools were Woodlawn High School on the East Bank, Belle Chasse High School, Port Sulphur High School, Buras High School, and Boothville-Venice High School located on the west bank. There were three all-black schools: Phoenix High School on the East Bank, Scottville High School in Naomi, and Sunrise High School in Empire located on the West Bank. These schools were all built from the same blue print.



Courtesy of Plaquemines School
All African-American schools (Phoenix, Suncise & Scottville) were built from the same blue print.

Judge Perez declared the court's desegregation of schools in Plaquemines Parish was worse than Hurricane Betsy, which devastated Plaquemines Parish and the Gulf Region the year before the court order in 1965. He railed against the court order as part of a Communist plot.

#### THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

In August 1966 African American students enrolled for the first tir public schools that were attended only by white students in Plaquen Parish. This was a major achievement for the Human Rights/Civil R Movement and brought national embarrassment to Perez's and the V Citizens' Council's "segregation forever" movement. These students the children and grandchildren of members of the Plaquemines P Civic & Political Organization, a civil rights organization (see chapte The movement to integrate the public schools in Plaquemines Parish continuation of the organizing by the Plaquemines Parish Civic & Pol Organization to dismantle Perez's dictatorship and institutional racis

The first African American students to integrate an all-white puschool in Plaquemines Parish were the brothers Lawrence Ben age Tyrone Ben age 12, and Michael Ben age 7, and the brothers K Griffin age 12 and Ernest Jr, age 14. The Ben brothers and the Gribrothers lived in Bertrandville on the East Bank. They all enrolle Woodlawn High School in Bertrandville, the only all-white puschool on the East Bank. All of the white parents organized and their children out of Woodlawn. The white parents' boycott of school was supported by all the teachers, support staff, school drivets, custodian, and cafeteria workers. The African American pat and children were confronted by Perez's angry white protestors holding manufactured signs with the word "DON"T" stenciled in red.



Courtesy of Plaquemines Gasette
White parents loyal to Judge Peres picking against schools integration in Plaquemines Pari

Some of the parents and children were shocked to see their white neighbors among the protestors outside of Woodlawn High School. They came to understand that the protestors felt that they had no choice but to come out and march against school integration because of their political enslavement to Judge Perez. They followed Perez's directions because he supported their families. They couldn't bite the hand that fed their families. They showed up every day at every school carrying the manufactured signs.

The other all-white public schools, all located on the West Bank, were also integrated. Unlike the boycott of Woodlawn High School by whites, there were a few white parents who sent their children to the now integrated schools on the West Bank: Belle Chasse High School, Port Sulphur High School, Buras High School, and Boothville-Venice High School. However the black and white students were met by the angry white protestors carrying the manufactured "DON'T" signs. However, the students at all the schools were not intimidated by Perez's white picketers.

Judge Perez led supporters in setting up five private schools in the areas where a public school was integrated in Plaquemines Parish. They were successful in setting up and opening the following private schools: River Oaks Academy in Belle Chasse, Promised Land Academy in Dalcour, McBride Academy in Port Sulphur, Seaway Academy in Venice, and Delta Heritage Academy in Buras. The segregationists established the Plaquemines Parish Independent School System – separate and apart from the Plaquemines Parish School Board – to manage the new private schools. Perez directed the Plaquemines School Board to transfer the control of all funds to the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council. The enrollment of white students at integrated public schools dropped significantly along with a mass exodus of white teachers, custodians, cooks, and bus drivers. They all went to the independent school system established Perez and white segregationists.

Judge Perez believed the opening of the private schools would the closure of all the public schools in Plaquemines Parish. How Woodlawn High School on the East Bank was the only integ school that closed as a result of the private school academies estable by Perez and white segregationists. The five African American sturwho tried to integrate Woodlawn High School returned to Pho High School.



Former Woodlawn School the only white school on the east bank of Plaquentius Parish

To stop the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council from ta control of the public school funds, Reverend Victor Ragas along the Plaquemines Parish Civic & Political Organization brought a fee lawsuit. Attorney A. P. Tureaud of the NAACP represented Rev. R and the group in the lawsuit, which proved to be a success. The rights advocates won their lawsuit, which forced the Plaquemines Parish advocates won their lawsuit, which forced the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council to return the funds to the Plaquemines Parish School Board. The return of these funds allowed all the integrated public schools, with the exception of Woodlawn High School, to read open and in operation.

The federal government was also successful in its legal challenge to Ju Perez's "segregation forever" legislation. The loss of federal revenues too costly for parish governments and school districts in Louisi As a result, many segregationist legislators in other Louisiana pari abandoned their "segregation forever" legal challenges against the Brus Board of Education decision and the desegregation of the puschools in their parishes. Judge Perez found himself alone to leg challenge the federal government orders to desegregate public schools

## Praise for JUDGE

"I highly recommend James Conaway as a guide for those who seek the habitat of the last of the Deep South's political dinosaurs. But bring your boots. There's all sorts of mud down in Perezland."

> -Robert Sherrill, author of Gothic Politics in the Deep South

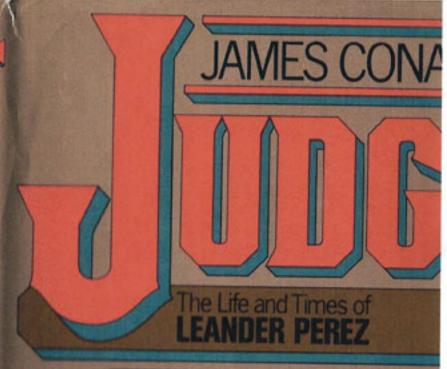
"Judge is a careful, well-documented look at an all too recent cancer on the American South. The antics described here would be humorous in a fictional principality— James Conaway's careful reporting puts the seriousness into a character that nearly defies belief."

-Julian Bond

"A competent, well-reasoned book showing . . . that it can happen here, and has,"

-Larry King









"A fascinating and fast-moving account of a fabulous character in the politics of Louisiana and the South." —T. Harry Williams, author of Huey Long (for other advance praise of Judge, see back of jacket)

His credo: "Always take the offensive. The defensive ain't worth a damn." His ideology: "Democracy? I hate that word." His style: perhaps the most outrageously and alarmingly dictatorial use and abuse of governmental powers that our country has ever seen.

In this first biography of "Judge" Leander Perez-for nearly half a century the absolute monarch of Plaquemines Parish (county) in southern Louisiana, an immense power in the politics of the state and the entire South-James Conaway gives us a profile as frightening as it is fascinating, detailing as it does how one man can transform the governmental process into his own, private tool.

Officially, Leander Perez was district attorney of Plaquemines; his brief tenure in the 1920's as district judge was his only other tour in public office. Yet, in the Byzantine world of Louisiana politics, only Huey Long was more powerful—and much of even Long's power was derived from his early alliance with Perez.

Powerful in the state, Perez was, in the smaller world of Plaquemines and the Twenty-fifth Judicial District, power itself. The parish virtually floats on oil, and the oil floated Perez into great wealth in the years that he served the people of the parish at \$5,000 per annum. He ran the levee boards that granted oil leases; the bodies that controlled elections, jury selection, the schools; a political machine that somehow, miraculously, would deliver more votes than there were voters in the county—and which hadn't even the subtlety to give Perez's opponents more than a handful. (In the 1930 U.S. senatorial race, St. Bernard Parish, part of the Twenty-fifth District, cast 3,979 votes for Huey Long, and 9 for his opponent. At the time, St. Bernard had 2,454 registered voters.)

As Conaway shows us, Perez would stop at nothing to consolidate, and exercise, his power. He once posted deputies at the parish lines to keep out a new sheriff (continued on back flap) (continued from front flap)

appointed by a governor who opposed him, and only—and just barely—releated when the state National Guard, in full combat regalia with machine gons mounted on their vehicles, escorted the new man into office. He reopened, and threatened to use, a decaying, malaria-ridden Spanish fortress as a "detention enump" for civil rights workers who strayed into the parish. He mobilized and helped to fund the Dixiecrats in 1948, and was instrumental in the formation of the notorious White Citizens Councils (his anti-integration activities eventually led to his excommunication from the Catholic Church). Even in death, his influence prevailed: he had wisely installed his two sons in Plaquemines' power positions a few years before he died in 1969.

A readable, authoritative portrait of an alarming, outrageous man, James Conaway's *Judge* is political history at its best, about politics at its worst.

James Conaway was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1941. He was graduated from Southwestern University in Memphis, and was a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Creative Writing at Stanford. From 1965 to 1967, Mr. Conaway was a reporter for the New Orleans Times Picayune, and he has since become a widely published free-lance writer whose work has appeared in The Atlantic, The New York Times Magazine, and other periodicals. He is also the author of a novel, The Big Easy, published in 1970.

Jacket design by Bob Korn

Photo by Robert W. Kelley, Life Magazine, © 1958–1972 Time Inc.



Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, New York

the constitutionality of the ordinance, and the Council amended it, requiring employers to keep a file on all outside employees. The Council also offered a reward of five hundred dollars for information leading to the conviction of anyone threatening or "compelling" Negroes to vote; however, apparently cognizant of increasing national attention, they also legislated a thousand dollar reward for information leading to the conviction of anyone burning Negro homes or churches.

The nationwide interest that focused on Plaquemines now brought various visitors to the parish. A group of students from Sarah Lawrence College showed up and asked for a tour of Fort St. Philip. Perez personally escorted them through the prison, explaining that it was to be used to discourage demonstrations "which amount to plain anarchy and are Communistinspired." He added that according to a parish ordinance, demonstrators could be imprisoned for three days while an "investigation" was conducted, and could be held after that until bond was posted; it was all precautionary—in case "a dark cloud [should] drift over Plaquemines."

Firm in their admiration for his leadership in the face of "outside agitation," a local musical group eulogized Perez in song:

There's a man I know from my home town who's really very great.

I wish he were president of the whole United States.

He stays a step ahead of those who think they're smartest now,

But when they find just where they stand, it's just too wet to plow.

There'd be a White House cleaning, and you'd even dust the shelf.

You'd have the place as spotless as Mister Clean himself. I'd like to hear you tell them off, just what they ought to know.

I've got a hunch you'd tell that bunch just where they could go.

You'd catch'em by their collars, and you'd sock'em in the nose.

You'd knock 'em down and beat 'em up, and hang 'em by their toes.

And when they hollered that's enough, you'd cut'em down and then,

You'd turn around and stomp the ground, and do it once again.

You've got a place for all those who lots of trouble make, A free ride in a cattle boat, and a bed behind the gate, Where the skeeters they are real vampires, and the snakes just grow and grow,

On this little isle of paradise, near the Gulf of Mexico. Judge Perez, Judge Perez, I'm for you, O'er the Stars and the Stripes and the Blue. I know this great big nation needs some real intelligence. I wish you were in Washington, and were our President.

In September of 1965, Hurricane Betsy drove up from the Gulf, causing widespread damage along the coast and demolishing many homes and buildings in Plaquemines. Water pushed by the wind up the Mississippi topped the front levees and met even more flood waters moving in across the salt marshes from the Gulf. When the water finally went down, the parish was faced with a cleaning-up and rebuilding task of massive proportions. The frequent intense storms that strike the parish have always acted as major deterrents to unified political opposition: the residents are preoccupied with personal disaster, and can hardly oppose those on whom they must rely in times of crisis. Thus, hurricanes usually provide effective diversion. This time, however, the storm led indirectly to an aggravation of Perez's problems.

A few days after the hurricane, the New Orleans office of the F.B.I. received complaints that blacks in Plaquemines were being forced at gunpoint to assist in clean-up operations. The N.A.A.C.P. made specific complaints on behalf of two black teachers, Clarence Marchand and Fred Patterson, who worked

at the Scottsville school. According to Marchand, "we were walking toward the cafeteria and were accosted by Leander Perez, Sr., and his bodyguard, known to me as 'Dutch.' Perez said, 'Hey, Thomas [referring to the school janitor accompanying them], get me a bus and a driver.' And to Mr. Patterson and myself he said, 'You two damn boys get on the bus, you're going to work.' We tried to explain to him that we were teachers and had special duties to perform. He said, 'Damn what you have to do, get your asses on that bus.' Miss Andree Lawrence, our principal, came out of the academic building and tried to explain to him that we were teachers and that Mr. Moncla, the superintendent, had instructed us to perform other duties. He said, 'The hell with their duties. I'll take care of Monela.'

"At this point his bodyguard said, 'All right, niggers, get the hell on the bus.' I refused, and he said, 'You'll get on, one way or another.' Again I refused. He grabbed my right arm and raised his club (a three-foot stick with an iron tip) to hit me. Mr. Patterson grabbed me and said, 'Let's get on the bus to prevent getting hurt.' When we were on the bus, Perez asked, 'Which one of you niggers started that trouble?' I said that I had started it. He said, 'Nigger, if you had hit Mr. Dutch, they would have had to take you away from here in an ambulance." We were taken to the Boothville-Venice high school [all white] to clean up."

Patterson's statement was similar. He quoted Perez as saying, when the two men refused to board the bus, "I have two or three hundred of you niggers here in this school [as refugees from the hurricane], eating my food, and you're getting on this bus."

\*Perez's bodyguard, Dutch Assavedo, was a special investigator for the district attorney's office. A short, extraordinarily sturdy Spaniard with a heavy jaw and a tight grin, he had a reputation as a man best not angered. He was devoted to the Judge, shared his belief in the Zionist conspincy, and in later years accompanied him almost everywhere, carrying a .38 Magnum either on the seat of his car or inside his jacket. Dutch was said to have persuaded some blacks to help clean up the roads by wielding a submachine gun. Asked about this a few years later, he said, "I've had so many different guns in my hands so many times, that I can't remember what gun I was holding at any particular time."

The N.A.A.C.P. claimed that many Negroes had be forced to work at gunpoint, and explained that "a request w made for volunteer workers to clean the roads in Plaquemir Parish, with no one responding. Later on in the day, Mr. I ander Perez, Sr., was able to get sixty-five volunteers (volu teer is literal) to work on the roads."

Perez also rejected a plan of the American Red Cross operate three emergency refugee centers in Plaquemines du ing the hurricane season because the plan didn't state wheth

the centers would be segregated.

The F.B.I. turned the N.A.A.C.P.'s complaints over to t Justice Department, and intervention by the federal gover ment in the Twenty-fifth Judicial District seemed inevitable; the next election, federal observers descended upon six pe ishes in southern Louisiana, including Plaquemines and St. Be nard. Perez blasted the observers as "spies" and "enemies When he made his traditional round of the polling placesaccompanied by Mama Perez, who seemed determined to kee Lélé from clashing openly with representatives of the feder government-Perez discovered two observers at the Bel Chasse firehouse, one sitting at a table near the commissione checking voters' names, and the other sitting at the back of tl station. He pointed at the observer seated at the table, and to a Times-Picayune photographer, "Take a picture of that feeral spy."

The observer seated at the back of the station came forwar

and said, "I don't believe I know you."

"No, you don't know me," Perez told him, "and you're ngoing to know me."

He walked over to the table and instructed the votir commissioners, "If these federal observers get in your way, te them to get out of here."

One of the observers said, "If you're telling us to go, we

Perez seemed aware of what further trouble that might les to, "I didn't say any such thing," he shouted. "You know the you smart aleck."

