



Saline  
Golden Anniversary  
Watermelon Festival

JULY 23, 1983  
SALINE, LOUISIANA

# BIENVILLE PARISH COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*This Committee wishes to thank The Bienville Democrat for permission to reprint this publication that was a part of the 1933 Festival.*

*To Mrs. J. O. Evans of Saline, a special thanks for keeping the original in a good condition and for loaning it to this Committee to reprint.*

*To American Printing Corporation of Monroe, Louisiana for reprinting it at a price we could afford.*

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Extension Staff*

Boosting The  
Truck Farmers

# The Bienville Democrat

Boosting The  
Truck Farmers

Volume 1

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1933

Number 1

## SALINE HOLDS MELON FESTIVAL

### WELCOME TO SALINE

Today Saline celebrates her third annual watermelon festival — an event of outstanding importance in the lives of the farmers and business men of Bienville parish.

Today we rejoice in this celebration as an occasion to do honor to the progressive spirit of our farmers and business men who are reaching out for financial independence through a diversified farm program.

To you who have come to join us in honoring these worthy sons of the soil, Saline opens her arms in welcome and bids you enter. Her hospitality is limited only by your requests. We want you to make our town your town while here and feel free to do as you would at home.

Saline extends to you the key to the gates of her city in the hope that you will use it to unlock the treasure chests of warmest friendship she feels for you . . . a friendship that will grow stronger with the passing years, bringing us closer and closer together on a common ground of mutual understanding whereby we may more fully co-operate for the advancement of agriculture.

Saline is glad you came. May your stay be pleasant, and may you come again.

Another thing the depression did was show us what a world full of wonderful things there are besides money.

### FESTIVAL QUEEN



#### MISS DORIS McCAIN

Miss Doris McCain will be crowned Queen of the Watermelon Festival today. Her attendants are Misses Virginia Taylor, Camille Hailey, Mary Evelyn Frey, and Eleanor Stinson.

### SALINE FOUNDED DURING 1903 IN VIRGIN FOREST

It is quite a coincident that Louisiana's third annual watermelon festival this year comes on the eve of the founding of the town of Saline just 30 years ago. The first lots, according to reliable information, were sold at the present site of Saline on the 29th day of July, 1903. During the 30 years that have elapsed since the founding of Saline, many changes have taken place. Wild game, then plentiful, is practically ex-

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### 2 CARLOADS OF MELONS WILL BE SERVED AT 11:45

After days of feverish planning and working out details, Saline celebrates her Third Annual Watermelon Festival today. It is a red letter day in the history of the Saline Truck Growers Association and the town of Saline, offering as it does an opportunity for the outside world to get a glimpse of farm life and what it stands for in southern Bienville parish.

More than ten thousand people are expected to be present, and arrangements have been made to serve 2 carloads of ice cold watermelons at 11:45 A. M.

The program will begin with a royal parade headed by Miss Doris McCain, queen of the Festival, and her attendants, Misses Mary Evelyn Frey, Camille Hailey, Eleanor Stinson and Virginia Taylor. Other floats will depict a diversified farm program as carried out in the Saline Territory — Irish potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelons in the order in which they mature. Many other beautiful floats representing business houses of Saline and other towns in Bienville parish will be seen.

At 11:45 2 carloads of ice cold watermelons will be served. The cooling of these melons is being made possible through the courtesy of the N. L. & G. and L. & N. W. railroads who are boost-

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ter April 11, 1912, at the Post-  
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the Act of March, 1879.

**MILESTONES OF  
PROGRESS**

Beginning from nothing the Saline Truck Growers Association by hard work and a determination to succeed has overcome all obstacles during its five years of existence. Today it is recognized as a leader in its field throughout the Southland.

With the able assistance of the L. & N. W. and the L. & A. railroads, and the co-operation of the American Fruit Growers, Inc., and the Nebraska Certified Potato Growers Saline today celebrated her third Annual Watermelon Festival as an event of unheard of magnitude in the agricultural field of the South.

Beginning with watermelons, Saline has developed the Irish potato and tomato industries to where thousands of dollars worth of these products are shipped yearly.

F. B. Fields is president, H. E. Sudduth, vice-president, C. R. King, secretary-treasurer, Ernest Corbitt, assistant secretary-treasurer, and Prof. A. M. Gaar, vocational instructor, is a member of the executive committee.

This association deserves unlimited credit for the successful fight it has made to bring new money crops to the farm and financial independence to the farmer.

The standpatters surely will have to step on the gas if they ever catch up with the procession again.

**SALINE HAS INTERESTING  
PIONEER HISTORY DURING  
DAYS BEFORE CIVIL WAR**

The first settlers pioneered the Saline territory almost a century ago. It was a land of plenty, with herds of buffalo and deer roamed unafraid. Game was plentiful. Wild turkey and bear tested the skill of hunters.

This wild unsettled country was then a part of Natchitoches parish, for that was long before Bienville parish was conceived.

Nearly all of the first settlers were from South Carolina. Some were sturdy yeomen who felled trees and built log houses. Others more wealthy, came with slaves and built more comfortable homes. All were bound together by a common tie — to conquer the wilderness and establish new homes.

As early as 1850 there were a number of large plantations in the vicinity, and nearly every plantation had its gin.

For many years after the first settlers came there were no schools and those who could not afford a governess or tutor for their children had to bring them up with no ed-

ucation other than that learned first-hand from Nature.

Market was a long way off. Cotton had to be hauled to Trenton, Natchitoches, or Campti and shipped by boat to New Orleans. After the fall crops had been gathered the slave owner would go by boat to New Orleans and return with great boxes of shoes and clothing and other luxuries that could not be made so well at home. But most of this was in the late fifties and early sixties.

When Addison Van Sant arrived in the late thirties, he found Matt Mobley already here. A year or two later came the Prothro brothers: Joshua, Edmund and William. Jason Boylston and his nephews, Warren and Rufus, came in 1848.

In September 1844 sixty-one Baptists met under the oak that is still standing in front of the home of Clifford King, secretary of the Saline Truck Growers Association, at Brown, and organized Saline Church. George Brown, for whom Browntown was nam-

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
SALINE TRUCK GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION**

Use  
Orange  
Pan-Am  
Gas

We are proud of the success of the Saline Truck Growers Association, and congratulate them on their third annual watermelon festival.

We pledge our heartiest co-operation in the truck-growing industry and extend our best wishes for your continued success.

**E. L. REED**  
Gibsland — Louisiana

# First National Bank

Arcadia, La.

“A Strong Bank and the People’s Best Friend”

WITH DEPOSITS AT THE END OF THE HALF YEAR..... **\$433,787.59**

And Available Cash Resources Consisting of

ACTUAL CASH ..... \$123,515.75

READY CASHABLE BONDS ..... 40,391.66

SHORT TERM CASH LOANS ALL GILT EDGE SECURITY ..... 37,500.00

TOTAL OF AVAILABLE CASH ..... **\$201,407.41**



**This Bank Does Not Owe A Dollar Borrowed Money  
To Anyone In The World**



One of the STRONGEST BANKS IN THE SOUTH, and a Bank that never deserts its customers; but like a mighty battleship, it takes them aboard and fights their battles for them, winning by its great strength as a financial champion.

If you want SAFETY for your deposits and protection from loss, do your banking business with the old

# First National Bank

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Arcadia, La.

## 2 CARLOADS OF MELONS WILL BE SERVED, 11:45

From Page One  
ers for the truck growing industry.

Public speaking will be held at 1 o'clock, with H. E. Sudduth, president of the Bank of Saline, as master of ceremonies. The welcome address will be given by F. B. Fields, president of the Saline Truck Growers Association. Other speakers on the program are: Hon. John N. Sandlin, Wilbur P. Cramer, Dept. Commander, American Legion, A. H. Tarver, president Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, and Lorris M. Wimberly, Bienville parish representative.

Arrangements have been made for three big bands to furnish music throughout the day. Saline's own band, composed of Wilson Payton, Haywood John, Elizabeth Krausel, Claud Montgomery, Edwin Payton, violins; George Rogers, Louise Lucky, Camille Hailey, Joe Lynn Sudduth, saxophones; Mason Payton, Earl Weaver, Jr., cornets; Mrs. S. B. Evans, director, and Sheffield John, clarinets, and Irene Lucky, piano, will be on hand to entertain the visitors.

Other amusements for the afternoon include a wild west rodeo under the direction of Bill Stinson.

"It will be a big day in the history of Saline and Bienville agricultural history," states E. M. Weaver, chairman of publicity for the Festival.

## SALINE TRUCK GROWERS ASSN. MERITS PRAISE

Today you are guests at Saline's Third Annual Watermelon Festival — a festival made possible through the vision and hard work of the farmers and business men of Saline community and the co-operation of the L. & N. W. and L. & A. railroads.

As you look upon the Saline Truck Growers Associa-

tion today, it is hard to realize the heartaches, the back-breaking work and disappointments through which this organization has struggled to reach its present membership

of over four hundred, and establish a reputation that is nation-wide for growing the best truck products in the United States.

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To the Town of Saline and to the Saline Truck Growers Association I extend my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of your

## THIRD ANNUAL WATERMELON FESTIVAL

and pledge my full co-operation for the advancement of Agriculture in Bienville Parish. Whenever I can be of service in any possible way do not hesitate to call on me.

Your humble servant

**Lorris M. Wimberly**  
Representative, Bienville Parish

## WELCOME FESTIVAL VISITORS We Are Glad You Came

We extend the heartiest congratulations to the Saline Truck Growers Association on their

## THIRD ANNUAL WATERMELON FESTIVAL

and bespeak for them continued success in this valuable undertaking they have so nobly begun.

**PAYTON LUMBER CO.**

Saline,

Louisiana

# ***Congratulations***

## **Saline Truck Growers Association**

●

**We Are Proud of Your Success in  
the Truck Growing Industry and  
Congratulate You On Your  
Third Annual Water-  
melon Festival**

●

●

It is our policy to render a dependable service to our patrons, and desire to co-operate with them to the fullest extent of our ability, and we appreciate the very fine spirit of co-operation prevailing throughout the entire territory.

The L. & N. W. Railroad feels honored by the privilege of working with the Saline Truck Growers Association in the development of Agriculture throughout the territory it serves.

**LOUISIANA and NORTHWEST  
RAILROAD CO.**

### SALINE TRUCK GROWERS MERIT PRAISE

From Page Four  
Officers of the Association are: F. B. Fields, president; H. E. Sudduth, vice-president; C. R. King, secretary-treasurer; Ernest Corbitt, assistant secretary-treasurer, and Prof. A. M. Gar, vocational instructor, member of the executive committee.

In 1928 after cotton prices had fallen to nothing and it was almost impossible to make a living on the farm with the one-crop plan, a group of Saline farmers and business men banded themselves together to sponsor truck farming.

The began by raising watermelons, and were so successful in this venture, they branched out and took up the growing of Irish potatoes. Through the co-operation of the American Fruit Growers, Inc., and the Nebraska Certified Potato Growers good prices were secured for this crop and the Association continued to grow and expand.

This year the association went into the tomato business in a big way. Supt. Kent of the L. & N. W. railroad placed two tomato specialists in the field at the expense of the railroad to assist and instruct farmers in the growing and marketing of tomatoes. As a result thousands of dollars have been brought into the parish from this new agricultural project. Next year they plan to plant even more tomatoes than they did this year.

### SALINE IS PROUD OF HER RAILROAD

Supt. Kent came to the L. & N. W. railroad in 1922 after 20 years' service with the T. & P. Since coming to the L. & N. W. he has devoted his efforts to the improvement of the railroad, until now it is one of the most substantial short-line railroads from the standpoint of passenger and freight service in the entire nation.

During the past five years Mr. Kent and the L. & N. W. have assisted the truck growers in many ways. They have assisted in the building of loading sheds and other preliminary details, and Mr. Kent was always on hand during the shipping season—checking markets and securing the highest market quotations and keeping a sufficient number of cars on hand to keep the melons and other crops moving.

This year Mr. Kent placed two agricultural agents in the field to work with the farmers in the development of tomatoes. In Gibsland alone it is said that more than \$17,000 have been realized from the sale of this new truck crop.

No wonder the people of Saline and all Bienville parish are proud of the L. & N. W. railroad and Supt. W. M. Kent. We are proud of him, too.

## We Are Proud of You!

It is with genuine pleasure that we take part in celebrating the third annual watermelon festival of the Saline Truck Growers Association.

We are proud of the wonderful work being done by the Association and pledge our co-operation at all times for the development of truck growing.

**SALINE CASH STORE**

**W. L. Stinson, Mgr.**

## Our Silent Service

—with its quiet, friendly sympathy which has stood the test of many years enables us to relieve you of the care and responsibility of details at the moment when your heart is too heavy for the additional burden.

**7465 Certificates Issued Up to July 11**

**CONGER BURIAL ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

**Arcadia, La.**



## SALINE FOUNDED IN VIRGIN FOREST

From Page One  
tinct now; forests that had long waved defiance to natural elements have been laid low by commercial interests, and taxes that were a mere pittance in those days have mounted until the expense is next to unbearable. But back to the founding of Saline.

According to the best information we can secure, the first residence in Saline was erected by Ollie Foster, who was immediately followed by John Black, who also established a livery stable. The first store was opened by Tom Harper on a lot now owned by L. T. Frey. This business enterprise was followed in succession by Rogers & Collinsworth, Saline Mercantile Co., managed by Jim Cooper, now of Mansfield, Bill Sullivan, McCoy & Frey, and others. With the founding of the town came two hotels, the Thomas hotel and the Commercial, both of which enjoyed a good patronage.

The first school in Saline, a two-room arrangement, was taught by E. S. Richardson, now superintendent of schools in Webster parish. The school building for a number of years was also used for a place of worship. In the early days two doctors, Moore and G. W. Tait, administered to the medicinal needs of the town and community. The town's first mayor was Marion Roden, who later moved to Jonesboro where he was at one time mayor of that town. Mr. Roden passed away several years ago. Wylie Dorman was the town's first postmaster, the office being opened in McCoy & Frey's store.

The founding of Saline followed the extension of the L. & N. W. railroad from Lucky to the town's present site. Later the line was built into Natchitoches, the road in its early stages being used principally for hauling logs.

When the first residences and business houses were erected in Saline the earth was blanketed with a mass

of wilderness—long-leaf pine, hickory, oak and underbrush. This growth was cut down in the streets of the town at night and then removed during the day, and when the streets were finally opened to wagon traffic a brisk trade was established with the people of the outlying districts. In 1904 a total of 3,600 bales of cotton passed through the town, and due to the fact that there were no warehouses or load-  
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"Ther's still hope fer th' country so long as they don't put no tax on playin' a game o' solitary," said Uncle Elmer this mornin' as he watched his grandson cheat himself at "spread-eagle."

One trouble the administration is having in to find enough real honest-to-goodness Democrats to fill all the jobs it has to pass out to Democrats.

"Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than look back."

## Cultivate Foresight

## "Happy Henry" Says

That's what Saline community has done: looked ahead, cultivated foresight.

Congratulations to You.

Saline Stands For  
Sociability And Loyalty IN Everything  
Meet Him There July 20th

### SALINE FOUNDED IN VIRGIN FOREST

From Page Seven  
ing platforms, the cotton was piled out on the street. On Sundays the L. & N. W. would send a string of box-cars to Saline where business men and others would load the cotton into cars for shipment. It was the only way out — no switches had been built and week-day trains could not be interfered with. Too, it was dangerous to leave cotton in the streets for any length of time because a fire would have destroyed hundreds and hundreds of bales.

In close proximity to Saline now stands the ruins of a number of old watermills that were in operation long before the Civil War. The creeks north of the town were ideal locations for such mills, and among the operators were Prothro, Stewart & Corbitt, Braswell Bros., Boylston, Braswell & Scott, and others. The Boylstons operated a grist and flour mill on one of the creeks adjacent to Saline in the early days and the farmers from many miles around drove there to have their corn and wheat ground.

Saline is an interesting place to visit and to those who enjoy listening to the historic trials of our early settlers, we can suggest no one who is more familiar with this history than L. T. Frey, J. C. Watts and the Misses Dorman who reside at Briarwood, some two miles south of Saline.

### SALINE HAS INTER- ESTING HISTORY

From Page Two  
ed, was one of the charter members. The first pastor was George W. Bains, the first clerk, William Prothro.

No record was found of the building of the present church, but it is claimed that it was built in 1858, and that a Van Sant slave was the chief carpenter. The timber was sawed at Boylston's mill and dressed by hand.

Among the prominent families coming before 1885 were those of Samuel Sprawls, Isaac Corbitt, Rowe, Boatwright, Blume, Babers, Thomas, Harper, Wooley and others. Some time in the '50's came Major Allen, grandfather of Allen Enloe of Saline. Later in the fifties came the Reidheimer brothers and their mother.

Before the War-Between-the-States began, Dr. Benjamin S. Sweat, Dr. E. T. Edgerton and Edward Patterson

arrived from South Carolina. Dr. Edgerton, who was the father of Mrs. D. E. Brown, of Arcadia, practiced medicine in Saline for many years.

After the war came Braswells, Evans, Thomas, Scotts, Fields, Fairs and others. Lina Sprawls married Mr. Fields. They are the grandparents of F. B. Fields, president of the Saline Truck Growers Association. During the eighties came the Heard's, Enloes, Watts, Rogers, Luckys, Wafers, and others.

## The Bank of Saline Welcomes You

● It is with genuine pleasure and admiration for your progressiveness in the truck growing industry that The Bank of Saline extends its Heartiest Congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of Saline's

### THIRD ANNUAL WATERMELON FESTIVAL

● To the visitors of the Saline Watermelon Festival we extend a cordial welcome. We hope your stay in Saline will be a pleasant memory, and that we may look forward to seeing you again.

**BANK of SALINE**  
Saline, ——— Louisiana

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY  
SALINE WATERMELON FESTIVAL  
JULY 23, 1983

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Gertrude Enloe  
Coordinator

Jamie Fair  
Master of Ceremonies

David Fields  
Finance

Leland Rhodes  
Publicity

Linda Fair  
Speakers

Ann Evans  
Parade

Carolyn Dison  
Entertainment

Marian Morgan  
Queen's Contest

Billy Lewis  
Contests

Mary Duchaney  
Cooking Contest

E. E. Letlow  
Horticulture Contest