

AG #341

Directory - Misc.

**THIS
IS
BAYTOWN**

Compiled by

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Baytown**

"THIS

IS

BAYTOWN"

BAYTOWN

PAST AND PRESENT

Baytown is unusual in that it is a new city with a long history. The legal entity now known as the city of Baytown came into being on February 15, 1947, through the consolidation of three separate communities—Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown. However, the history of this area almost coincides with that of the Republic of Texas. The San Jacinto monument, visible from Baytown, and various historical markers remind Baytonians of their heritage of history. Such men as David G. Burnet, Provisional President of the Republic of Texas, and Ashbel Smith, Minister to France, lived here in the area known as Evergreen. During the War between the States a shipyard was located on Goose Creek.

The modern phase of the city's history began in 1915, with the discovery of the famed Goose Creek oil field. For several years there was the feverish activity characteristic of a boom town. Decline in oil production would probably have caused a corresponding decline in the community had it not been for the erection of the refinery by the Humble Oil & Refining Company, whose founders recognized the advantage of location on the Houston Ship Channel.

The community has grown steadily in size and population. It now covers 26.14 square miles and has 47,500 inhabitants as of 1972.

Baytown is proud of its industrial growth. Many of the people in the area are employed by Exxon Company, U.S.A., Exxon Chemical, U.S.A., Esso Research and Engineering Company, Ashland Chemical Company, Gulf Oil Corporation, J. M. Huber Corporation, Mobay Chemical Company, Natural Gas Odorizing, Stauffer Chemical Company, United States Steel Corporation, Texas Eastern Transmission, and Consolidated Chemicals.

This area suffered very little during the depression in comparison to other areas over the United States. There was some lowering of income but little actual unemployment. During the war the refinery products were in great demand. The production of synthetic rubber and of toluene for explosives which was started for war needs, still continues.

The active labor organizations include the Baytown Employees Federation, the Gulf Coast Industrial Workers Union, the Carpenters Local Union, the Labors International Union Of North American Local Union, the Painters Local Union and United Steel Workers of America.

Baytown has one daily newspaper which presents a rather complete coverage of the news. There is one radio station, KWBA, 1000 watts.

Baytown has three hospitals with a total of 243 beds. There are three nursing homes.

Practically all of the major faiths are represented by 60 churches throughout the community.

We also have many active public interest organizations as the Friends of the Library, American Association of University Women, Pilot Club, Service League, Business and Professional Women's Club, Junior Forum, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Jacettes, Society of Professional Chemists and Engineers, Parent Teacher Association, and League of Women Voters and numerous other organizations representing many special interests and performing many valuable services.

In addition to these groups most of the social and cultural clubs also aid in projects to help the community. The main fraternal groups are the Elks, Masonic Lodge, Odd Fellows, Knights of Columbus, Woodmen of the World, and various veterans' organizations. Most of these have women's auxiliaries.

Businessmen of the area belong to the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Lions Club, and Kiwanis Club. The various groups represented in Baytown have always shown a willingness to cooperate on problems affecting the welfare of the community.

CITY GOVERNMENT

The city governing body is known as the city council, and is composed of a mayor and six councilmen. The mayor is elected at large for a term of

two years. The mayor presides at council meetings and is recognized as head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes and by the governor for purposes of military law, but has no legal administrative duties. The mayor is entitled to vote on all matters considered by the council but has no vote power. The city is divided into 6 districts, according to population, and a candidate for the office of councilman other than the mayor must reside in his respective district to be elected, although each councilman is elected by a vote of the entire electorate of the city. Members of city council serve without compensation but the council may by majority vote of its membership reimburse its members for money actually expended in performing official duties for the city. The charter prescribes the authority, power and limits of the council and all policy matters of the city are vested in the city council. The council has the sole authority to appoint and remove the city manager and he may be removed only after 30 days due notice. The city manager may request a public hearing, but this is not a mandatory requirement. All meetings are open to the public and the council may meet as often as it likes provided that no less than one meeting is held each month. Special meetings are called by the city clerk upon request of the mayor, city manager or a majority of the council members.

The city manager, appointed by the council, has the authority to control the entire administration of the city government with the exception of the municipal court which is under the jurisdiction of the council.

The Municipal Court Judge is appointed by the city council to serve a term of 2 years. He is the judge of the municipal court, which is the only city-administered court and has municipal jurisdiction.

The city attorney is the chief legal advisor of the council, of all offices, departments and agencies, and of all officers and employees in matters relating to their official powers and duties. He represents the city in all legal proceedings. He is appointed by the city manager.

Council shall designate an officer of the city who is recommended by the city manager as clerk of council. This person is appointed and removable by the city manager. He serves as clerk of the council. He gives notice of the meetings of the council, keeps a journal of its proceedings, and authenticates by his signature and records in a book kept for that purpose all ordinances and resolutions.

The precinct justice of the peace deals with certain types of civil and criminal matters within his precinct.

The Baytown Housing Authority is jointly operated by the federal government and a board appointed by the mayor of the city of Baytown.

Baytown and Harris County work together in matters of drainage, health, and street maintenance where ever such matters concern the city. Baytown is in Harris County Precinct 2.

Baytown has one representative in the state legislature. The city is in an area represented by a state senator. In the U.S. Congress Baytown is represented by a congressman elected from east Harris County.

The authority of the city government of Baytown is derived from the city charter, state laws, and the Texas constitution. There are relatively few restrictions on home-rule cities.

Changes in the city government are made by amending the charter, which is done by popular election. No changes have been made since the charter was adopted on January 24, 1948.

CITY GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

Approximately 400 people work for the city, all of whom are appointed by the city manager with the exception of the recorder of the municipal court. There is a civil service commission consisting of 3 members appointed by the city manager with the approval of the city council. The job positions of the fire and police departments have been classified. Promotions are made solely on the basis of ability and tenure. Employees are dismissed when necessary for the good of the service by the city manager or by the department heads when authorized by the city manager except for police and firemen; in their case the civil service board acts on recommendation of the department head and city manager. All employees, with the exception of part-time employees and municipal court judge participate in the retirement program of the Texas municipal retirement system. There is also a supplemental retirement program administered by the employees and participated in on a voluntary basis.

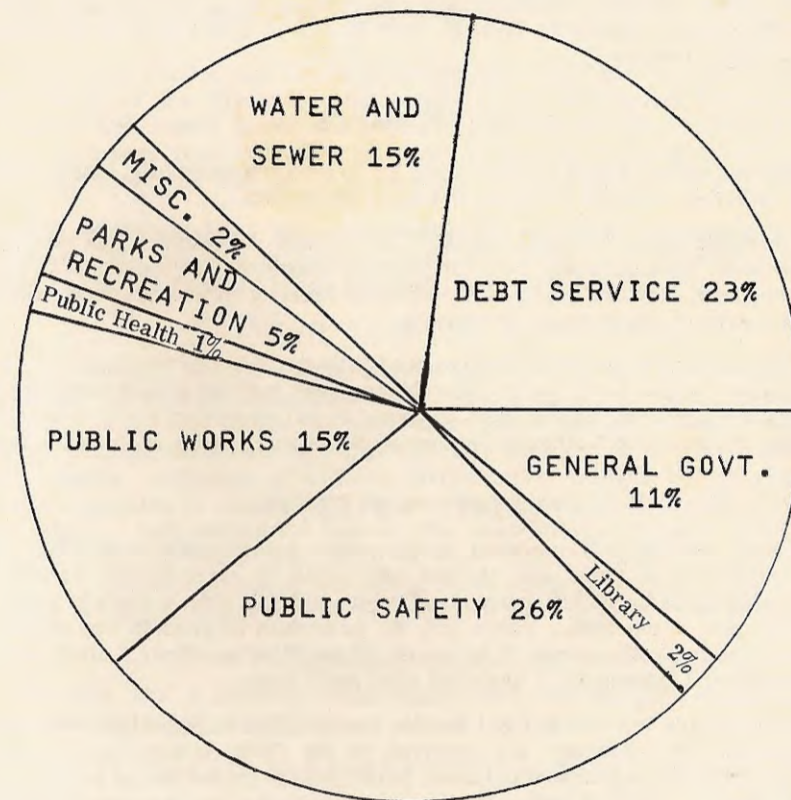
CITY FINANCE

There is a department of finance headed by the finance director. The city budget is prepared by the city manager and submitted to the council accompanied by a budget message explaining its meaning and implications to the city. The council holds a public hearing on the submitted budget at which time interested persons may be heard for or against the estimates. The city manager administers the budget and each year he has hundreds of copies published for distribution to interested citizens and groups. The budget is proposed during the summer preceding the fiscal year and must be adopted by September 27. All expenditures are authorized by the city council by proper appropriations ordinances. The city council by ordinance sets the tax rate and the assessment rates. The sources of revenue to support all the governmental activities of the city are as follows:

1. Real and personal property ad valorem taxes
2. Franchises
3. Business licenses
4. Fines
5. Parking meters
6. Waste collection fees
7. Inspection fees
8. Sale of water

PERCENTAGE OF EXPENDITURES IN PROPOSED BUDGET 1973-1974

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES, 1973-74 . \$7,495,484
LIBRARY 1973-74 ... \$196,190



About 56% of the city income is derived from the property tax. The tax assessor and collector is appointed by the city manager. He assesses all property each year, subject to revision by the board of equalization. The city does not share tax funds with the state or any of its political subdivisions. The finance director is ex-officio treasurer for the city and all funds are kept in an official depository. The city council designates a certified public accountant to make an independent audit of accounts at the end of each 6 months of the fiscal year. City records were instituted and are maintained in accordance with recommendations as set out by the national committee on municipal accounting. The city council may not issue bonds except upon approval of the majority vote of the qualified voters of Baytown except that under certain conditions the city council may, by ordinance, issue certificates of obligation. The city debt is retired from tax funds and water and sewer revenues.

CITY TAXES

The tax base of the city of Baytown is set by ordinance annually, historically the ratio has been 50% of the market value since 1965.

Assessed value in 1973 was \$231,261,025.00. Ad valorem tax receipts represent approximately 60% of revenue required for operation of city government. Baytown realizes a collection value of 97% of tax rolls, which is a commendable response by citizens.

The primary value of dwelling is placed on the tax rolls by the tax assessor-collector. If the home owner after having been notified of said value, feels it is too high, he has the right to appeal to an independent board of equalization composed of 3 citizens who have no direct relationship to the tax office.

POLICE PROTECTION

There are 79 1/2 employed on the police department payroll. Nineteen and one-half of these are civilian employees: 5 clerk typists, 8 school-crossing guards, 3 1/2 humane officers, a legal aide, a records supervisor, and a mechanic. There are 60 policemen of whom 37 are officers (patrolmen), 1 policewoman, 14 sergeants, 1 identification officer, 1 electronics technician, 4 lieutenants, 1 assistant chief and 1 chief.

Officers are selected by Civil Service examinations and questions involving promotion or discharge are referred to the Civil Service Commission. Employees of the police department participate in the municipal retirement system. The chief of police is the executive head of the department and is not under the state Civil Service laws. The Police Department now handles its own training program with a 6 weeks basic training given at the College of the Mainland in Texas City. All additional training is also handled by the department with short courses administered by outside instructors.

The main duty of the police department is general law enforcement. The police and the judge try to educate traffic violators. Cases of juvenile delinquency are turned over to the Harris County Probation Department's probation officers who carry on a program of rehabilitation.

The Police and Court Building was built in 1973 by the city at a cost of \$600,000.00. The cells are built to hold a capacity of 55-60 prisoners. This new structure has many of the conveniences of any modern structure such as air-conditioning and heating. In addition, the jail has closed circuit TV; inmates cook their own meals in the jail kitchen and are furnished uniforms. According to a national survey, a city the size of Baytown should employ one and one-half policemen per one thousand population, as recommended by the F.B.I.

FIRE PROTECTION

The fire department consists of 90 volunteer firemen, 39 paid full-time employees, plus a fire chief, assistant fire chief, fire marshal, 5 captains, 12 lieutenants, 4 dispatchers, and a mechanic.

Four fire stations are located throughout the city. There is a fire marshal in charge of the fire prevention program who investigates, inspects and reports fire losses to the state, thereby enabling the city to have a lower fire insurance rate. Baytown's present KEY rate is 24 cents and 20% good fire credit rating. The KEY rate has been reduced by 22 cents since 1949.

The equipment total at the 4 stations is as follows: 8 pumpers, 2 tank trucks (900 and 700 gallons), 1 (100 ft.) aerial truck, 2 pickups, 2 vans and 2 cars. These range in age and model from 1946 to 1969.

BAYTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

The Council Traffic Committee is appointed by the city council, and consists of 2 councilmen, chief of police, municipal court judge, assistant chief of police and another member of the police department, city attorney, chief building inspector, city engineer, city manager, director of planning and traffic, chairman of citizens traffic safety council and one citizen. This committee is charged with the responsibility of moving traffic through the city in a safe and prudent manner. The committee is constantly collecting data, analyzing effect and cause of each traffic mishap in the city. The Baytown Traffic Committee functioning in this manner, contributes countless hours necessary to accomplish the objective given them by the city council.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Baytown has a planning commission which consists of nine members appointed by the city council.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS

A. The Electorate

To qualify as a voter one must be at least 18 years of age, a bona fide resident of Baytown for at least 30 days, of the state of Texas for at least one year. Efforts are made to inform the public and create voting interest through newspapers, by hand bills, radio and by several civic organizations. The city manager helps the electorate to be informed on city affairs not only by the annual budget message but by a monthly report on finances and activities by all departments. As a rule, more votes are cast at the general city elections when city officials are elected than on special elections such as bond issues and charter amendments.

B. Election Machinery

The city council prescribes local election procedure but such procedure must not be inconsistent with the city charter and the state election code. The city council appoints its own election officials and these officials are charged with the duty of conducting the balloting at the 12 polling places. There is one election judge in charge of each of the polling places and each of these judges is assisted by several clerks. The entire conduct and procedure of Baytown's elections are under the direct supervision and control of the city clerk. The election officials are paid by the city. The regular election for the members of the council is held on the first Tuesday in April. This date does not coincide with any state or national election. Local elections are non-partisan and there is sufficient notice given as to the time and place of the election. Write-in and absentee voting are also done by machine.

C. Political Organizations

Since city elections are non-partisan, that is, not concerned with differences between the national political parties, and there are no established factions on local affairs and no political machinery as such in local elections. Any qualified voter of the city may have his name printed upon the official ballot for a particular office at any election by filing his sworn application with the mayor at least 30 days prior to the election.

CIVIL DEFENSE IN BAYTOWN

In our modern civilization, we live under the constant threat of danger from natural and accidental sources as well as from nuclear attack. Other areas of the country face the constant threat of earth quakes or tornadoes. On the Gulf Coast is the constant watch and preparedness against the threat of a hurricane which will destroy our city. Although not as probable, there is distinct possibility that we could be faced with a nuclear attack in the future. Civil Defense is the planning for these emergencies, operating during such extenuating conditions and recovery from disasters.

In any emergency, both the public and government have responsibilities. Each citizen must take what steps he can to provide for his own safety, food, clothing and shelter. The city government has the responsibility of providing protection for life and property of its citizens and can call on assistance from the state and national government when its resources are insufficient. The city provides services to the individual which he cannot provide for himself.

Plans must be made to continue and expand necessary services such as fire, police, water, sewers, health communication and purchasing of supplies. Additional services must be provided such as warning, rescue, medical assistance, radiation defense, transportation, public information, shelters, and man power and situation evaluation. The resources and activities of schools, churches and industry must also be coordinated. These plans have been made and responsibility for each of these services and functions have been assigned.

A three minute warbling sound on the cities and Exxon's sirens indicates an immediate emergency. Instructions to the public will be given over the local radio stations, if available, or over the Houston radio stations. Each

person should have a 14 day supply of food and water. A member of each family should be trained in medical self-help since medical assistance may not be immediately available.

Baytown Civil Defense is quite anxious to discuss problems or emergency at any opportunity and will provide speakers or films for any organization requesting them.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Personnel of the City Health Department include a chief sanitarian, 3 sanitarians, and a public health nurse. The county has a branch office of the Harris County Health Unit in Baytown and has two nurses, a clerk and a sanitarian which serves East Harris County outside of the City of Baytown. The city nurse works with the county nurses under the medical supervision of the county health director, a physician. All three nurses work with the local physicians in pre-natal and obstetric work, infant care, pre-school, school children, communicable disease and care of sick people in their homes. They are concerned primarily in the prevention of disease and in health teaching.

City Ordinances enforced by your City Health Department are:

1. Licensing and inspection of all food and drink establishments.
2. Licensing and inspection of vegetable stands.
3. Licensing of pest control operators.
4. Enforcement of the milk ordinance which requires all milk to be Grade A and Pasteurized.
5. Baytown's meat ordinance requires all meats, including poultry, to come from Federal, State or State approved plants.
6. All shellfish coming into the City must be certified.
7. Much time is spent in the enforcement of the vacant lot ordinance.
8. Parts of the plumbing ordinance in regard to sewer connections and parts of the garbage ordinance are enforced by the Health Department.
9. Public Health is mostly education. Thus, much time is spent in making talks to clubs, schools, food handlers in schools, Public Health Merit Badge work in Scouts, mobile x-ray units to the public in regard to health problems.

As an additional function the City of Baytown is one of many Texas cities in which the air is monitored and samples sent to the State Health Department. The object of this monitoring is to find out what pollutants are in the air and to help in the enforcement of air pollution laws. The City has 3 monitoring stations.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Baytown's recreation program features 24 parks covering a total of 248 acres. The parks are located throughout the community to offer ready access. They provide for such diverse activities as baseball, tennis, basketball, playgrounds, biking, hiking, and boating. Three swimming pools are available, and plans for two additional pools are being drawn. Baytown's four community buildings have meeting facilities for community use. The

city sponsors many special events during the year, such as scoutarama, style shows, and art exhibitions.

LIBRARIES

There are two (2) public libraries in Baytown: Lee College Library which extends service to the public upon payment of a library fee and owns 62,000 books, and the Sterling Municipal Library.

The Sterling Municipal Library building was completed and open for service in February, 1963. Baytown is proud of this library which serves an area population of approximately 55,000. There is no tax levy for the library, but an appropriation is made each year by the City Council. The library is free to all for lending and reference. The total library consists of a main library and one bookmobile and offers a number of special services such as phonograph turntables, reference section and use of the auditorium. Additional equipment and services provided include: 16 mm. and 8 mm. movies, framed prints, sculptures, cassette tapes, posters, phonograph records, film strips, projectors, one chord organ, games, puzzles, and reels of microfilm, and periodicals.

The total processed books now owned by the library number 71,983 with capacity of 67,875. The library also subscribes to 370 periodicals.

MUSEUM

There is a collection of museum items on exhibit in the Baytown Community Building. The city hopes to have its own museum building in the near future. A museum board has been appointed to study the requirements for a museum.

BAYTOWN LITTLE THEATER, INC.

Since its founding in 1961 this volunteer community group has grown significantly. It presents six major productions each year in its own 200 seat, air-conditioned arena theater in Lakewood Village Center, Baytown. It sponsors summer workshops for all ages and encourages everyone to participate in its many activities. It is supported by season ticket sales, family memberships, sponsors and patrons and individual ticket sales.

AIR SERVICE

There is one private airport in Baytown. Limousine service is available to Houston Intercontinental Airport and to Houston's Hobby Airport 24 hours a day.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

There are several agencies that share responsibility for public welfare. These can be divided into two general classifications according to the source of revenue and the manner in which they are governed. These categories are: (1) private agencies supported by voluntary contributions and governed by boards of committees of local publicly elected volunteer citizens who formulate policies in accordance with local conditions, and (2) public agencies which are supported by tax funds and have a definite legal basis of operation

defined by law.

The local agencies are controlled by a board of directors elected by the council of members at their annual meeting, which all who contribute time or money to the Community Chest may attend. This board selects the director and other workers for the local agencies. The public agencies are controlled by the executive offices of the Department of Public Welfare in Austin and the area office in Houston. The workers in the state agencies are hired by the merit system. The public welfare work in Baytown is supported by tax money and the funds come from the state and federal government.

The Department of Public Welfare is a public agency serving Harris County for determination of initial and continuing eligibility for financial assistance and related services for the state-federally financed categorical assistance programs. Citizenship is required for all assistance recipients. Financial need according to state-wide policies must be established for each applicant. Aid to Families with Dependent Children is administered by this agency. A full-time worker for the Harris County Welfare Department maintains an office at 806 W. Main.

Other assistance programs such as Old Age Assistance, Aid to Needy Blind and Aid to Permanently and Totally Disabled are handled by the Federal Social Security offices as supplemental security income.

A representative of the Social Security Administration maintains an office in the Federal Office Building on DeFee St. and is there on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

There is no full time Texas Employment Office in Baytown and applications for job placement are handled through the Pasadena office. Baytown people have to go there to apply. They do have itinerant service for the purpose of accepting claims for unemployment insurance only. They use the Woodmen of the World Hall on East Texas Avenue for that purpose but have no telephone.

A probation officer comes to the police building every Monday morning. On occasions special probation officers are brought in to handle certain types of cases such as dependency and neglect cases.

The local government does not run any institutions for the physically and mentally handicapped. There are state institutions available and the local Welfare League will assist anyone needing such care to gain admittance. State institutions are available for the orphaned and delinquent.

Special aid to children includes treatment of tonsils or tonsillectomy operations provided by the Kiwanis Club and glasses provided by the Lions Club.

The Board of Education requires school children and all school personnel to be immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox and polio according to the age requirements set up by the medical profession. The public health nurses function as the school nurses and the school pays a specified amount for these services. There is no school physician. The

nurses plan and execute, with the help of volunteer assistance of the Baytown Service League, the screening tests of vision and hearing of all elementary school children.

These agencies are also at work in Baytown:

Big Brothers of Baytown - character development of fatherless boys.

Thrift Exchange - free clothing and other assistance for school children.

Crippled Children and Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center - physical therapy and rehabilitation service.

Welfare League - emergency short time financial help.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Baytown Opportunity Center - a chance at life for the retarded child.

Child Care Centers - day care for the children of working mothers.

Bayshore Mental Health and Retardation Center.

Y. M. C. A.

American Red Cross
Community Chest

Visiting Nurse Association - professional part-time nursing service to home-care patients.

In addition there are certain agencies in Houston that give special services to Baytown people and are supported by the Community Chest.

These are:

Houston Legal Foundation - legal assistance for indigent people.

DePelchin Faith Home and North Side Branch - handles adoptions, institutional and foster home plans.

Florence Crittenton Home - planning for the unmarried mother and her child.

Lighthouse for the Blind - training an employment for the Blind.

Houston Speech and Hearing Center - diagnosis and treatment of speech and hearing difficulties.

Family and Children Service Center - counseling service.

LEE COLLEGE

Lee College is a comprehensive community college with a student body of more than 4,000 enrolled in academic, vocational-technical, extension, continuing education, basic adult education programs and other special programs.

One of the oldest two year institutions in Texas, Lee College was founded in 1934. A nine member board of regents is elected from within the college district. Seven major modern structures and a variety of shop and auxiliary buildings are enhanced by attractive landscaping and ample parking on a 35 acre downtown location.

Lee College offers the Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science and Associate of Science in Technology degrees and two years of high quality transferable credit. Tuition is the state required \$4.00 per semester hour with a \$25.00 minimum plus fees. Students can develop skills in a full two year study program or in the case of people already working, spend only one semester to upgrade abilities and earning capacity.

The keystone of Lee College's community service is the Continuing Education Program. It requires no minimum educational background and offers virtually any subject any 10 people want to study. The costs vary from \$10.00 to \$30.00 for these courses.

Lee College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities, the American Association of Junior Colleges and the American Council on Education.

Funding for the college comes primarily from state sources with local taxes contributing 28% of the total budget. Tuition fees account for another 19%.

SAINT JAMES HOUSE

Saint James House on Baker Road is a sectarian institution financed by the St. James House of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas offering residential care to ambulatory well persons over 65 years of age. It provides private rooms, meals, recreation, and religious services.

GOOSE CREEK CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Goose Creek Independent School District was created in 1921. This enactment gave the management and control of the schools to a board of trustees to be elected by the people of the school district. It also gave the board of trustees the power to appoint an assessor and collector of taxes for the school district. The district maintained the boundaries as created by this enactment until it consolidated with the Cedar Bayou Independent School District in a vote of the residents of both districts in 1954. As a result of the consolidation vote the name of the district was changed to the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.

The responsibility for developing the educational policies of the district is vested in a seven member board of trustees elected to three year terms of office by a vote of the qualified residents of the school district. The regular meetings of the board of trustees are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month and are open to the public. The school district is accredited

by the Texas Education Agency and the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

There are twenty-two school plants in the district housing approximately 14,100 students and 785 professional staff members in an educational program that included grades kindergarten through grade twelve. The educational program has been developed so that grades kindergarten through grade five are operated in eleven elementary schools, grades six through eight in four junior schools, and grades nine through twelve in two high schools, three buildings that house special education programs, a central media center and a school administration building. All of the schools in the district are in a good state of repair and are air conditioned and heated. Currently there is under construction the John M. Stuart Career Center that is due to open in August of 1974.

The district is in a very favorable tax position as compared to other school districts of its size in the state of Texas. The current tax rate is \$1.435 for the operating fund and \$0.20 for the interest and sinking fund based upon an assessed valuation of \$557,952,470. The assessment rate for the district is 48% of true market value. The budget for 1973-74 is \$18,448,500, including the interest and sinking fund and the building program. The total operations budget is \$12,837,500, sixty-seven percent of which is provided for by local sources, thirty-two percent by state sources. The only one percent comes from federal and county sources.

The schools in Baytown are a source of pride for those who teach in the system and those who live in the community. The schools are primarily concerned with providing an excellent and effective program of individualized instruction from kindergarten through grade twelve.

A comprehensive testing and counseling program is operated throughout the system that allows teachers to diagnose and prescribe for the educational needs of all students.

Each school has a modern well-equipped library-media center that provides basic, supplemental and enrichment materials for students and teachers. The materials available include movie projectors, films, film strips, film strip projectors, record players, records, tapes, tape recorders, overhead projectors, transparencies, opaque projectors, programmed materials, books, and television sets.

The professional staff is composed of 746 instructional people and 39 administrators and principals. The average number of pupils per teacher employed by the district is 20.61. The salary schedule for the school district is among the finest in the state of Texas. The starting salary for teachers in 1973-74 is \$7,500 per year and the maximum salary for teachers with a PhD is \$12,820.

The Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District has always supported the ideal objective of "equal educational opportunity for all students." It has offered outstanding programs in vocational education, and special education, as well as the regular classroom instruction.

The comprehensive special education program offered by the district

is designed to meet the needs of students between the ages of 3-21 who have special learning needs. These children are identified by educational diagnostics through careful assessment. Each student's individual strengths are studied and educational plans are made, utilizing specific materials and facilities. The programs include opportunities for students in nine general areas including speech correction, vocational rehabilitation, emotional adjustment, early childhood education, pregnant students and language and learning disabilities.

PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

There is one parochial school, St. Joseph's Catholic School, in Baytown. Several private schools and kindergartens add to the city's educational opportunities.