

NEW ORLEANS HAS SUBSOIL OF SHELL UNDER 56 STRATA

Original Sketch at Cabildo Shows Formation Found in 1854

New Orleans has a solid subsoil of shell formation above 85 feet below the surface, instead of resting upon a soft and shifting accumulation of mud and sand, according to H. L. Blanchard, son of Brigadier-General Albert G. Blanchard, C. S. A., who in 1854 made a boring to a depth of 630 feet for an artesian well in neutral ground on Canal street between Carondelet and Baronne streets.

A drawing, the original of which has been in the Louisiana State Museum in the Cabildo, shows the strata encountered by General Blanchard in the course of the drilling for this well. A copy of the original sketch, which has just been presented by the general's son to the Association of Commerce, carries notes recording the character of each layer, its consistency and its thickness.

Many of the strata are of blue clay, dark brown sand, pale olive clay or clay and sand, but at five distinct levels shell formations were found. The 10th layer was described as being like mortar in its consistency and composed of sand, clay and shell mixed.

Several inches thick At a depth of 82 feet and five inches General Blanchard found the pre-eminent hard shell formation, which he discovered to be six feet five-inches thick, extending through the softer strata of clay and sand like a shock absorber.

General Blanchard was civil engineer in the city engineer's office when he bored for water in 1854 in Canal street. At the depth of 490 feet he struck a flow of water that amounted to 300 gallons an hour and went deeper to find an efficient source, but failed to tap the water.

That 14th layer, the general's son explained, "is the explanation why at little more than 30 feet good foundations for piling have often been located."

Belts of Sea The sea was then raised and deposited the shells. We know that not so many years ago the river came to the customhouse. The Mississippi has been continually cutting away on the west bank in the present and old opera house area.

They told me at the site of the new Yellman building on Baronne street that the piling goes down 65 feet first and then 16 feet for a basement, bringing the total to two feet of the strata and a half foot layer of solid shell formation.

At a depth of 188 feet my father's boring went through a cedar log, showing that the wooded banks of the river were there once.

Red Army Career Before my father came here and married into a family that persuaded him to leave the military service, he was serving in the United States army as a career.

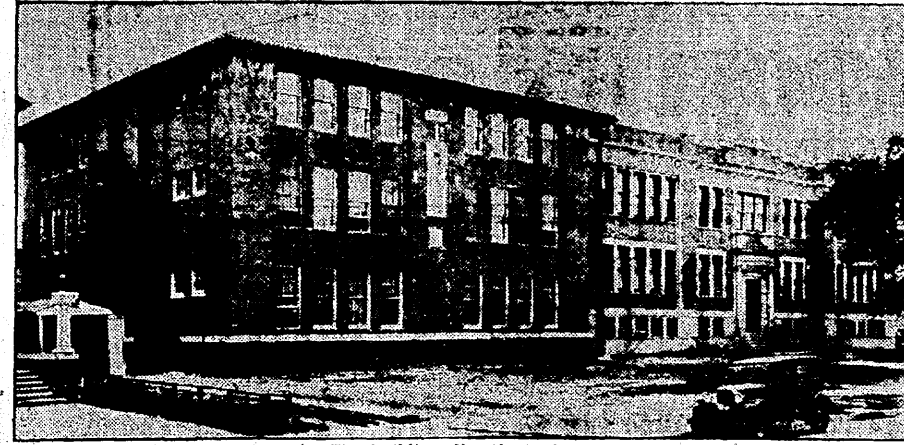
Born in Boston, he was graduated from the Military Academy at West Point. When he was cadet there, he met others at West Point at the same time included General William T. Sherman, General Ulysses S. Grant, General Robert E. Lee, General Albert Sydney Johnson and Jefferson Davis.

My father served in Florida in the Seminole war and saw six months of service in the Mexican war, earning the personal praise of General Winfield S. Scott. Afterwards he formed the Phoenix Company of Louisiana, of which he was captain. The war between the States took him quickly into the Confederate army, where he was the star on his collar.

Was Widely Acquainted Later my father came here and became the founder of the Academy of Sciences and afterwards a trustee of the University of Louisiana, now Tulane, when it occupied a three-story building on University Place along the site of the arcade next to The Roosevelt hotel.

Others of his friends in those years included Captain James Eads, who built the bridge across the Mississippi at St. Louis and the jetty near the mouth of the river, and also Paul Morphy, the chess genius. My father was also superintendent of the public schools of the city at one time. His connection with the noble family of Le Salle, with its association with the Phillips, citizen king of France, and with French intrigue on the Island of Santo Domingo is another chapter of his story that hardly comes into the record of what he learned about the town upon which the city of New Orleans rests.

New Buildings for Local Students



The building directly in front is the new annex for the Sacred Heart of Jesus school. To the right is the school building to which an auditorium will be added.

DRUIDS PLANNING ABITA EXCURSION

Mayor and Town Officials Will Welcome Mystic Krewe

M. J. Ostendorf, noble grand arch of the Ancient Order of Druids, has completed plans for the fall campaign to begin as soon as all committees are appointed. With the grand grove officers, he has inaugurated the usual round of official visits. Surrounding towns will be included in the itinerary in order to promote the forming of new groves and promulgate the principles of the order.

The important event at present is the all-day outing next Sunday, August 16, to Abita Springs, La., given by the Mystic Krewe. Arrangements are completed and everything is in readiness.

A special train will leave the Terminal station, Canal and Basin streets, at 7:25 a. m. and 7:15 p. m. for the return trip from Abita. Music on the train, all through the day, will be provided, games and sports, also dancing, are listed on the program.

Mayor Barney Casey and town officials have promised generous hospitality. The community pavilion has the Spring has been placed at the disposal of the Krewe and their guests, while Mr. W. J. Morgan has tendered the use of his swimming pool.

The committee for the outing comprises Captain J. D. Perrault, chairman, Arthur J. Peters, secretary, M. C. Calonge, D. N. Ziegler, E. E. Birke, William F. Durr, Fred Durr, Jr., M. Viola, M. J. Ostendorf, L. E. Williams, J. O. Debat, Joseph J. Delhom, J. Hirth, J. R. McNulty, L. P. Wick, Frank E. Sexton, Charles Stines, Emile Wengert.

FRENCH SOCIETY TO HAVE BATHING REVUE

Postponed Celebration Will Be Held Next Sunday

The annual Fourteenth of July celebration staged annually by the French Society of New Orleans in commemoration of French independence and postponed this year on account of torrential rains, will be held at Pontchartrain Beach Sunday, August 16, and will be featured by a spectacular bathing revue.

A score or more of New Orleans' most beautiful girls have already signed up for the revue, according to Maurice Defour, chairman of the committee in charge, and all details are being handled by Miss Leontine Grandwohl.

Dr. J. G. Roussel has been named chairman of publicity and with Coeur de France, president of the French Society, is laying extensive plans for the festival's success.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL COMPLETES ANNEX, PLANS AUDITORIUM

Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church Will Have Educational Plant Covering One Entire Square

An annex containing 13 rooms has just been completed for the parochial school of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic church in the 2300 block of Canal street, and a contract was let several days ago for the construction of an auditorium addition to the existing main school structure.

The annex recently completed is located between the main school building and the church, the three structures taking up virtually the entire block on Canal street. In the rear of the church edifice on a large plot at the Lopes and Cleveland avenue corner of the square, a pile driver began work during the past week on the foundation for a residential structure which will house the clerics attached to the church. This will be next to the residence of the sisters, which occupies the plot at Cleveland avenue and Rendon street.

Need of an auditorium for the institution caused the signing of a contract during the past week with Lionel F. Favret, who built the annex, at a price of \$27,793, and work will be rushed as fast as possible to make it available during the greater part of the coming school term.

B. K. A. BAND TO GIVE CONCERT AT OUTING

Benevolent Order Makes Tribute to Residents of Bay

Committees for the outing planned for Sunday, August 30, to Bay St. Louis, by the Benevolent Knights of America, are adding new features at each of their meetings. The report arrangements about concerts. A new point of interest is the contemplated concert to be provided by the B. K. of A. military band, under the direction of Professor Charles Boehler, with a splendid program of standard and popular melodies, also favorite operas. The concerts are intended as a tribute to the residents of the Bay for the courtesies they are showing the visitors and as an additional attraction. J. J. Husey, chairman of the music committee, has secured "The Southern Gentlemen" orchestra to furnish the dance music. Radio fans are familiar with the orchestra through the broadcasting over WSMR.

Among the members making up the personnel of the various committees contributing their services in achieving success for the day are included E. O. Schulz; G. L. Patterson, Belden Homburg, Frank Weber, H. Acker, M. LeBlanc, William May, T. LaMotte, Jules F. Mares, R. Munot, H. G. Fitzgerald, Vincent

EXPERTS TO TALK ON CHILD HEALTH AT L. S. U. MEETING

Distinguished Authorities to Discuss Problems of Youth

A number of distinguished speakers will be invited to appear on the program of the Louisiana follow-up conference to the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection which will be held at Louisiana State university November 12, 13 and 14. It was announced by Miss Emma Pritchard Cooley, Friday following a conference here with P. H. Griffith, director of the conference, and G. O. Houston, executive secretary of the Louisiana Teachers' Association, which will hold its annual meeting jointly with the conference.

Selected as speakers for the education division and its allied subjects are Dr. Mary Dabney Davis, Washington, D. C.; Miss Anne Davis, director of vocational guidance in the Mississippi public schools who is chairman of vocational guidance and child labor at the White House party; Dr. James R. Plant, child guidance expert of Essex county, New Jersey; Dr. H. E. Barnard, who was director of the White House conference; Dr. Daniel D. Poling, president of the International Christian Endeavor movement, who conducts the youth conference hour over the radio; Dr. Martha Van Rensselaer of Cornell university, assistant director of the White House conference; Dr. Glenn Frank, president of the University of Wisconsin; W. J. Bogart, superintendent of schools in Chicago; W. J. Cooper, United States commissioner of agriculture, and his assistant, Roy G. Sorenson.

A letter urging Ray Lyman Wilbur, secretary of the interior, to attend the Louisiana conference has been sent, Miss Cooley says. In addition to the formal invitation, it was pointed out to Secretary Wilbur that the Louisiana results will be particularly well attended and comprehensive since this is the only state which has full co-operation from its teachers' association.

The education committee is headed by T. H. Harris, state superintendent of education, and includes Mr. Houston, Mr. Griffith, E. G. Armstrong of Ruston, Miss Clyde economics with the state department of education; Miss Lois Shortess, state supervisor of school libraries with the state department of education; A. C. Lewis, supervisor of negro education with the state department of education; Superintendent of De Soto parish; J. H. Brest, superintendent of schools in West Baton Rouge, and Miss Cooley.

The speakers already chosen do not include those for the health division, which will be headed by Dr. Joseph O'Hara, head of the state board of health, who is in charge of this portion of the conference. The education division and its allied subjects will include parent-teacher relations, the health of the handicapped child, youth outside the school and home which brings in virtually all forces in the community, vocational guidance and child labor and the recent child and kindergarten.

The conference program will include general sessions when leading speakers will give addresses after which there will be round table discussions led by prominent outside speakers. The steering committee appointed for the conference, this association has abandoned its formal program to participate in the conference sessions and will devote its attention entirely to child health and protection. However, in order to carry on its other activities, the steering committee will be held on the afternoon of November 13.

An effort to enlist the interest of churches, civic and religious organizations, social agencies, women's clubs and similar groups is being made and the Louisiana Association of Parents and Teachers is among the groups which have pledged their support to the conference, Miss Cooley says. The sessions, she points out, mark the beginning of efforts to understand the unified child and as such should arouse unusual interest.

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER FISH JUMP IN BOATS

Columbia, Pa., Aug. 8.—Fish so hungry that they leaped into the fishermen's rowboat in quest of food were reported by several enthusiasts casting their lines in the Susquehanna river near the new intercounty bridge.

One party reported that a large bass had jumped into their boat in leaping at insects flying just above the water surface. Other fishing parties brought in similar reports.

IMPORT RUSSIAN GASOLINE

Wellington, Aug. 8.—A small shipment of Russian gasoline arrived in New Zealand recently. There is no special embargo on Russian goods coming into this country, and the local trade expects importations of Russian gasoline in quantity.

More Public Construction Urged by Alfred E. Smith

Declares That Private Charity Will Not Provide Maintenance for Unemployed During Coming Winter—Wartime Methods Needed

By Alfred E. Smith

Unemployment has now taken on the aspect of a real emergency and is as difficult as anything we had to deal with when we found ourselves facing preparation for the World War. When you have to face an emergency, routine measures will not suffice for dealing with it. You cannot wait for the ordinary round of the economic cycle to swing itself back into place.

I am satisfied that private charity and voluntary relief will not solve the problem throughout the coming winter. I have personally given time and energy toward assisting the Red Cross and the local unemployment relief committees in New York City. The millions of dollars raised in New York City to provide part-time employment on city improvements and maintenance are rapidly being exhausted. No such sums can be obtained this fall, because most people are actually unable to duplicate their previous contribution and because, rightly or wrongly, there is a widespread feeling that the agencies of government should step forward and do something on a sufficiently large scale to meet the problem.

Many suggestions have been made that the prompt and energetic planning, financing and speeding up of public improvements, national, state, city and local, will help. My experience tells me that if they are to be of any use it is absolutely essential that very definite steps be taken immediately. My own contact with large scale construction shows that there is a necessary lapse of time, even with the best will and no handicaps, before projects can actually be started.

Immediate Situation Important No doubt our economic troubles are a reflection of an international situation which can be greatly improved by co-operation in adjusting international debts by certain arrangements and by international operation along other lines. My immediate interest is in the situation which we face in this country in the course of the next year, and especially in the coming fall and winter. There is a serious unemployment problem which is serious unemployment no matter how much the present conditions improve.

Recently, Colonel Arthur Woods, chairman of the president's committee for employment, stated that in the next year public works will amount to \$3,500,000,000, or one-third of all construction. Assuming these figures to be correct, also that there has been no falling off in public construction and that the falling off has been made up by other means, it means that if we double public construction, we shall go a long way toward providing work for the unemployed, not only directly on public projects, but indirectly in the numerous mines, mills, factories, plants, and other enterprises which manufacture and transport the materials required for public construction. These include the so-called white-collar class as well as mechanics and laborers.

I do not dwell upon the kinds of public work which it is essential to carry forward, nor do I advocate any undertakings that are not clear and absolutely essential. There are federal projects and state and municipal ones, roads, bridges, hospitals, special improvements to meet the needs of growing communities, all of which require speeding up and another year will pass without that degree of accomplishment that means actual relief.

There are two important questions involved in securing relief through the construction of public works. One is the question of financing; the other is speeding up construction so as to get the work started in the States and localities use many different methods for financing public works. It is obvious that any new method of financing must be one which will not impose an intolerable burden upon real estate, or upon incomes of people of small or moderate means, or on business in the coming year, because this will make conditions worse and not better. In an emergency we cannot stop to surround ourselves with all the safeguards that we employ at other times.

The federal government finances public works out of current revenues. But there is nothing in the federal constitution to prevent the issuance of bonds for a reasonable period to meet an emergency like the present one. These bonds need not be of long life but it is entirely logical that they should run for a sufficient period so that the great improvements which they will bring about will be paid for in part by the future taxpayers who will enjoy them. There is every justification, and I believe that it is financially sound to borrow money for needed improvements by issuing bonds or otherwise to meet the present emergency, and this might be done by the federal government in the same manner as state and local governments now do it.

More serious than financing, because I believe that that can be

solved by bond issues and perhaps by other methods, such as advancing dates of appropriations, is the actual speeding up of plans and construction. Governments move slowly. They are bound around with red tape. It is possible to speed up public works. Most of the red tape, delay and obstruction which tie up literally hundreds of millions of dollars of available public moneys are caused by the lack of co-ordinated authority. The five presidents preceding President Hoover were all attended by faithful negroes.

Boris became the personal attendant of President Hoover in 1919, when the present chief executive was in Russia on a relief mission. Knowledge of the Russian language first brought Boris to Hoover. Boris looks little like the conventional valet. A general favorite in the Hoover household, he is called on to do everything from laying out the president's clothes to acting as guardian of the Hoover grandchildren when they are visiting the White House.

Although the white man has supplanted them as valet to the president, many of the negroes who once served in this capacity at the executive mansion are still active around the capital. Probably the best known of the group died only recently. He was Arthur Brook, personal servant to Presidents Taft, Harding, Wilson and for a short time, Coolidge. Brook was one of the most famous of White House servants.

Interesting Group William Sinclair, body servant to McKinley, is now living quietly in Albany, N. Y. Frequently he visits Washington to renew old acquaintances. Sinclair came to the White House with Cleveland. Frank Dowling, who succeeded as Coolidge's valet, now sits outside the office door of Secretary Mellon of the treasury, as a personal messenger.

Isaac Scott, who attended President Wilson, when he was stricken at his S street home, still remains as a servant at the Wilson mansion. But the veteran of them all is Charlie Reeder, now a messenger for William R. Castle, assistant secretary of state, who served under three presidents. As a boy he was with McKinley for four and one-half years, and under Roosevelt for seven and one-half years, and Taft for two years.

Roosevelt's servant was Henry Pinckney, whom he brought with him from Albany.

SEEK TO BEAUTIFY HIGHWAYS INTO CITY

Horticultural Society Will Co-operate With Civic Organizations

The New Orleans Horticultural Society will seek the co-operation of civic organizations and automobile clubs in a beautification program to main highways leading into New Orleans, Max Scheinuk, president of the society, announced Saturday.

Mr. Scheinuk expressed the opinion that upon completion of the proposed project it will add "a new dimension to the beauty of the city." "On the highways leading into New Orleans," Mr. Scheinuk said, "property owners will find it inexpensive to plant grape myrtle and oleander, giving beautiful flowers from early in the spring until late in the summer. Property owners might also plant phlox, petunias and larkspur, all inexpensive, and none requiring any attention in their cultivation and all producing a riot of color.

"With the paved highways we now have leading into New Orleans, we certainly should go further and make them beautiful with the color and perfume of flowers. The planting of grape myrtle and oleander plants is so simple that children are capable of doing it."

TRY HARVEST COMBINES London, Aug. 8.—While grain growing in Great Britain is comparatively small, the ministry of agriculture is considering the use of the combined harvester-thresher.

HOOVER'S VALET STARTED SERVICE AS INTERPRETER

Russian Became Personal Attendant of President in 1919

Washington, Aug. 8.—To a tall, black-haired man with a soldierly bearing is entrusted the duty of caring for the person of the nation's chief executive.

He is Kosta Boris, the first white man to serve any of the last six presidents as personal servant. The five presidents preceding President Hoover were all attended by faithful negroes.

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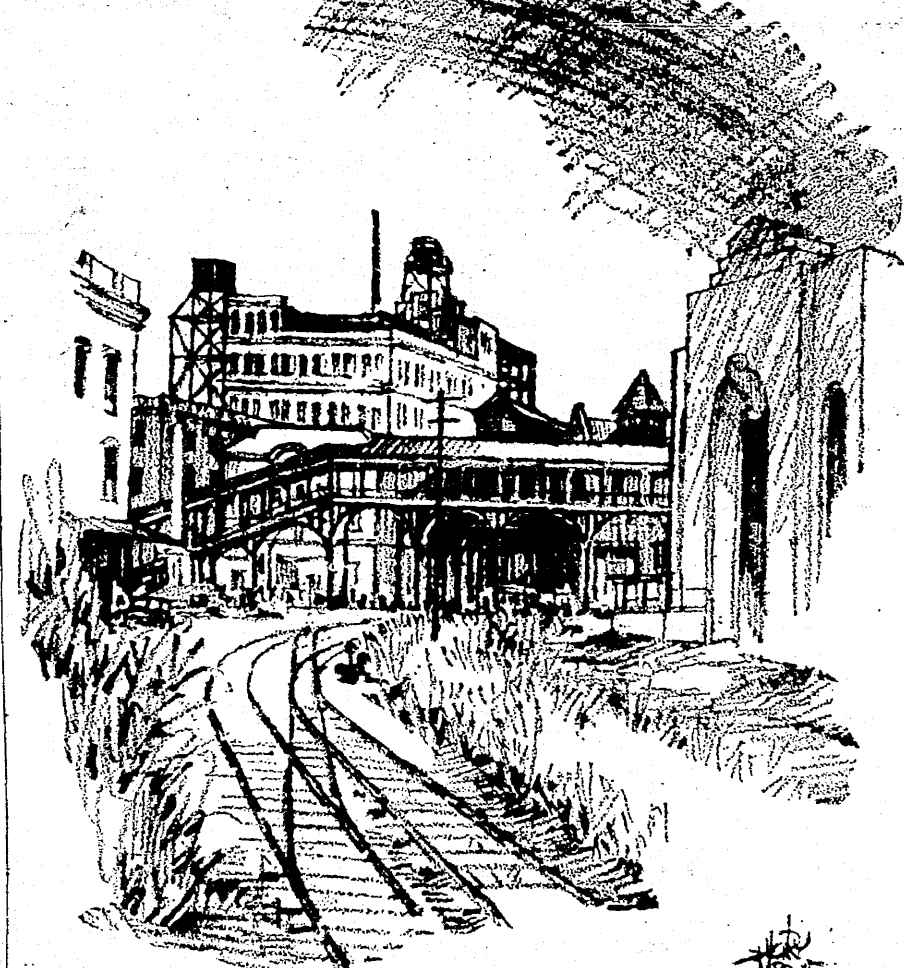
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The Artist Looks at New Orleans



Staff Artist Henry Barrow sketches the downtown side of Canal street at the river. In the foreground are the ferry viaduct and the water gate, with the Louisville and Nashville station just behind.

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