

Logan H. Babin

Depression Begins Developer's Career

By LOUISE BADEAUX

While the Great Depression generally conjures unpleasant memories for most who escaped its tight and firm clutches, it served to produce a local industrial developer who has been affiliated with construction work, oil industry, land development and real estate in Terrebonne parish for almost 40 years.

Logan H. Babin's story takes us back to 1930, when Logan was a sophomore attending Texas A & M University at College Station, Texas.

Both he and his two sisters were all attending college classes at the same time, with one sister studying at the University of Wisconsin and the other at LSU.

Logan's father, then in the oil field, suffered a big cut in salary and Babin felt it only right he leave school and "let the girls go".

Taking an occasional sip of piping hot coffee from the cup on his desk top, Babin continued his story, explaining that the Texas Company hired him October 1 of that same year and issued him an assignment in Houma.

Babin worked with the company for a decade, during 1934-36, was permitted to re-enroll in college studies at LSU in Baton Rouge. With permission from his dean, Logan was permitted to carry 22 hours one term and 23 the next in order that he might complete requirements for a bachelor of science degree in geology and petroleum engineering within a two-year period.

He did finish in 1936, and claims he was a C plus and B student.

During that two-year period, Babin continued to work with the Texas Co. in Houma on

weekends, holidays and the summer months.

Babin lost credit on about eight hours of studies when he made the transfer from Texas A & M, and those hours, too, somehow had to be squeezed in during his already full schedule.

Babin said the Texas Company was "very nice" about the whole thing, and without them "I could have never graduated."

It was while attending LSU in 1935 that Babin met his wife, the former Sarah Blum of Houma, and by 1938 the pair were united in matrimony.

A smile spanned Babin's face as he recalled the date—November 20.

Sarah worked in a local bank for ten years and then came Logan Jr. and Leopold. While Sarah tended to affairs only a wife and mother is equipped to do, Babin nursed a career in the construction business.

By 1940 Babin was ready to be transferred to land work, and Texas Co. had no openings.

Babin knew he had either of two choices—he could quit or go to work for somebody else.

He did neither, but rather began his own construction business, having had experience in the oil field and the educational background to get that kind of business off the ground.

Babin and Charles Cain in fact did construct all the original drilling barges used in the parish.

Babin said it wasn't enough to have money in the construction business, but what was in even more demand from bonding companies was real estate. No successful construction man could make it without real estate backing him, Logan added, and that's how his real estate business came to be.

The construction business dwindled in 1964, and as Logan likes to phrase it, "I retired for the first time". In its place sprang up an insurance

and mortgage business which he sold in 1968, his second retirement.

Logan found himself being drawn to a project which proposed to develop 10,000 acres into land for industrial, commercial and residential use.

Hired as a consultant, Babin said the land development movement and has been associated with it ever since.

He said this particular project involves 2,900 acres on both sides of the Houma Navigation Canal between La. Hwy. 57 (Grand Caillou Hwy.) and La. Hwy. 315 (Bayou Dularge Hwy.) being developed for industrial use.

Residential development will take place along both sides of Woodlawn Ranch Road between Grand Caillou Highway and Little Caillou Highway, in the Bayou Blue area, and a 166-acre tract located between the Intracoastal Waterway and Mulberry Subdivision on Bayou Black.

More land along the Intracoastal Waterway and Houma Navigation Canal will be reserved for industrial and commercial use.

The Plaquemine native reported he has devoted much time to taking marsh lands and swamp areas such as those included in his current project, and turning them into usable property.

Most of this type of land has water and trees, water which needs to be drained and trees which need to be felled.

Drainage must come first, Babin said, in order that workers can bring in the heavy equipment needed to strip the land of trees.

Once the trees are cut, their remains must be stacked and burned to meet government regulations for disposal.

The burning is not without problems, Babin continued, as the federal government is also watchful of pollution which may result from the burning timber.

When the land is cleared of trees, a dredge is employed to fill the land. The project Logan began with an elevation of one and a half to two ft. above sea level and progressed to a plus six.

National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures and Motion Picture Association of America MOVIE RATINGS:
PARK: Swiss Family Robinson (G) A1
Last of the Red Hot Lovers (PG) A1
SOUTHLAND CINEMA: Last of Red Hot Lovers (PG) A3
Snoopy Come Home (G) +
NCMP classification code:
A-1, morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-2, morally unobjectionable for adults; A-3, morally unobjectionable for adults; A-4, morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations; B, morally objectionable for all; C, condemned.

MPAA classification code:
(G) all ages admitted, general audiences; (PG) — formerly GP — parental guidance, may not be suitable for pre-teens; (R) restricted, under 17 requires accompaniment of parent or guardian; (X) no one under 17 admitted; (+) No Rating Available.

This service sponsored by the Houma Knights of Columbus Council 1317 and Catholic Daughters of the Americas Cardinal Gibbons 177.

NOW SHOWING
SHOWTIME
WEEKDAYS 3 P.M.
SAT. & SUN. 1 P.M.
BIJOU
CALL 873-7738
FOR CURRENT PICTURE

personality
of the week



Logan H. Babin—Industrial Developer

(Photo by Jim Quave)

Wed., July 19, 1972 The Houma Daily Courier & The Terrebonne Press - Houma, La. - 5A

soon became taken up with the oil industry.

Logan said he's not one to delve into politics but enjoys seeing others suited to that career in action.

Babin, puffing on a mild cigar, said he served as a member of the water board of his "adopted parish" for 18 years, having been appointed as one of its commissioners in 1952.

He was one of the original members of the commission which developed a water system in the parish which now makes its services available to every resident living within the Terrebonne Parish boundaries.

Having served as a commissioner until 1970, Babin served as president several terms and as secretary for one term.

Babin said he served in a supervisory capacity on the board with engineers hired to set forth designs. The commissioners handle these plans and worked out the mechanics of financing the projects, Babin said.

He reported even though his work on the board has ended, he remains interested in its activities and plans to keep abreast of its future projects.

The 60-year-old developer has an interesting and perhaps unique habit. He tapes a copy of his latest land development project on his desk top and jots down changes that might improve the project. When the blueprint becomes cluttered and somewhat soiled, that's about every two weeks, Babin said, he has the blueprint replaced.

His office is paneled and modestly furnished, overlooking Lafayette street and its sometimes hectic traffic conditions.

We add the name of industrial developer Logan H. Babin to our Courier Personality of the Week list and we respectfully call attention to his many selfless talents that reach out among us today and for many days to come.

Today's Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Wednesday, July 19, the 201st day of 1972 with 165 to follow.

The moon is between its first quarter and full phase.

The morning stars are Venus and Saturn.

The evening stars are Mercury.

ry, Mars and Jupiter.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Cancer.

American firearms inventor Samuel Colt was born July 19, 1814.

On this day in history:

In 1848 "blooms" were modeled to the delegates of the first woman's rights convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y. They were named after Mrs. Amelia Jenks Bloomer.

In 1870 the Franco-Prussian War began.

In 1918 German armies began

retreating across the Marne River in France as the end of World War I neared.

In 1941 during World War II, the "V for Victory" campaign in Europe was launched in a broadcast by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

A thought for today: British statesman Winston Churchill said, "The V sign is the symbol of the unconquerable will of the German occupied territories and a portent of the fate awaiting Nazi tyranny."

AC SUMMER OF '72

Pants Sets . . .

set the pace!



Lead the fashion parade this summer with this two piece designed for the active ones. The jacket top has white collar and cuffs and button front, matching pants feature wide legs zip front and button waist. Colors are white on black and white on blue. \$34.00

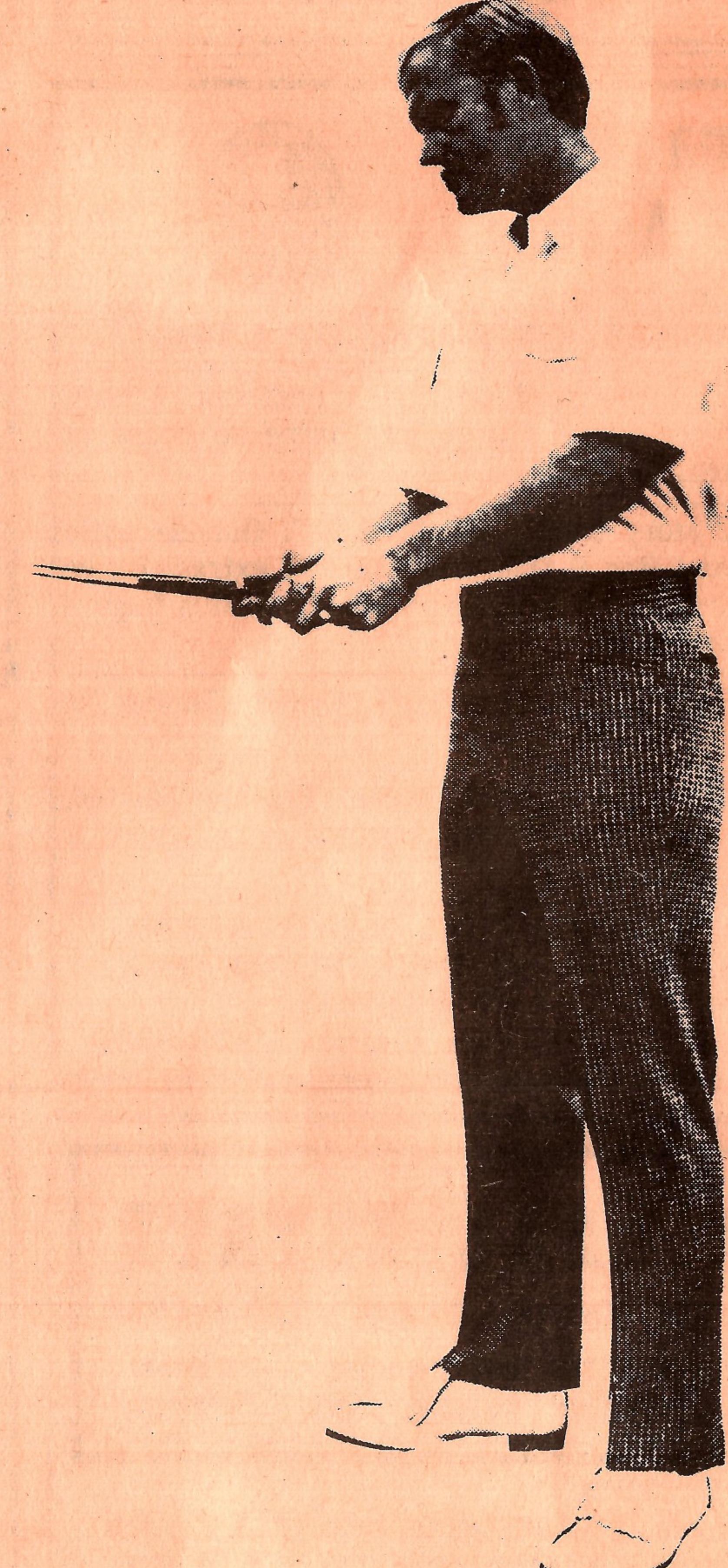
Arthur Coplon

Houma • Southland Mall

Thibodaux • Green and West Fifth

AC SUMMER OF '72

Double your pleasure . . .
in double-knit



Put more pleasure in your leisure with the active comfort of the double-knit Jack Nicklaus slacks by Hart Schaffner & Marx. Slanted front pockets with beltless waist make them great to blend with a favorite shirt or sport coat. From \$32.50

Arthur Coplon

Houma • Southland Mall

Thibodaux • Green and West Fifth