

Opinions

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About nothing in particular

Unless, like me, you consider most universities to be Marxist indoctrination centers, it probably sounds to you like a good thing that 31.5% of Americans over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher. Is that necessary now because what was once taught in the seventh grade, most of us don't learn even in college?

I suppose then it's a cause for alarm that in Catahoula Parish only 11.7% of us have that baccalaureate degree. LaSalle Parish does little better with 12.2% of its population having a bachelor's degree.

Catahoula need not hang its head too low however. The median annual household income (half the people make more, half make less) in Catahoula Parish is actually almost \$2,000 higher – that's right: higher – than in LaSalle Parish. And that's even with 26% of our population below the Federal poverty level while LaSalle has "only" 19.5% below that level. These are problematic disparities in wealth distribution but that's a subject for another time.

Furthermore, according to the latest

published statistics, the median value of an owner-occupied home in Catahoula is worth about \$2,000 more than one in LaSalle. That's \$82,100 in Catahoula versus \$80,000 in LaSalle. Imagine that.

Now imagine this: the *national* average for a home is two and a half times higher than in either LaSalle or Catahoula. That's \$204,000 at the 2014-2018 average. I know. Awesome, right?

So, where am I going with this? Nowhere probably but it does seem like a good place to mention for the 500th time that we are always scratching around for money with which to provide ourselves with minimal government services. Just last week I wrote about a scheme the Police Jury is kicking around to get a tax increase by introducing a monthly "fee" charged to each 911 address and dedicated to sanitation. The big question is "How much money will the plan raise?"

But there's another question that is perhaps even more fundamental. That is "How much government does a parish with only 9,494

By Leo Chappelle

people in it really need?" The law, according to www.lpgov.org/page/ParishGovStructure, says that the number of police jurors must be between 5 and 15. However – and this is a very big "however" – "A parish with a population of less than ten thousand may have as few as three members." (Let's see, "Is ten thousand bigger than 9,494...?")

We spend over \$134,000 per year on Police Juror salaries (plus benefits?). I'm not talking about the guys who actually do the road work, install culverts, clean ditches, grade the gravel roads and lay down asphalt because for one thing, we don't have as many of them as we do Police Jurors. I'm talking about the nine people who go twice a month to Room 104 for 30 or 40 minutes and do what the Police Jury secretary tells them the state says they have to do.

It's never too early to ask your Police Jury member to reduce the cost of government by creating a Home Rule Charter commission. Twenty-six parishes have already done it. Some govern far more with far less. We can, too.



1st Row, Weldon Torrey, Robert Sheppard, Keith Cooke, Calvin Gibson, Ray Boothe, 2nd Row, James Bratton, Bart McGuffee, Abe Wyant, Dale Torrey, Alfred Cassels, 3rd Row, Melissa Sheppard, Jeff Ryan, Kent Nugent, Mike Cassels, Benny Bratton, Dewanna Bratton, Back Center, Coach David Faerber

JEB Tales

Enterprise High School 1984 Louisiana State High School Baseball Champions

Monday I will be having eye surgery and will not be able to write for a while, so I asked Mrs. Pat Sheppard to let me borrow her information on the Enterprise High School 1984 baseball champions.

Some of the things I do remember is it takes pitching depth to win a state championship and we had two good pitchers in Junior, Robert Sheppard, and Sophomore Mike Cassels. Both were named All-State that year and the next year. Robert was also named the MVP for the State of Louisiana.

Good pitchers need good catchers and Benny Bratton was one of the best. He also could hit the ball. Benny was named All-State two years. A good infield is a blessing to any team and ours got better all year. Kent Nugent at first base was super and could catch anything thrown his way. Second baseman Weldon Torrey improved all year. Third base was handled by young James

Bratton who had a good arm and no fear. At shortstop was Mike Cassels when Robert Sheppard pitched and Alfred Cassels when Mike pitched.

The outfield improved all year. Composed of Keith Cook in left field; Robert Sheppard in centerfield when Mike Cassels pitched and Alfred Cassels when Robert pitched. Bart McGuffee played right field and was an over 500 hitters.

Also important to the team were managers Melissa Sheppard and DeWanna Bratton. An especially important member of the team was Dale Torrey, who kept things loud and lively.

The coach was a young and energetic David Faerber came to Enterprise from Covington in Southern Louisiana. He left a couple of years later to take a head coaching job in the Baton Rouge area, Faerber is now retired.

In 1984 the Town Talk's headline read "Smallest baseball-playing school the Class C giant" Tom Marvin of the Town Talk wrote, "The "free

By John Ed Bartmess, Jr.

enterprise" system was alive and flourishing Thursday in the Class C baseball championship at Bringham Field.

Enterprise, the smallest baseball playing school in the state, got a freebie run in the bottom of the seventh that paid the dividend of the school's first-ever baseball championship in win over Athens. I knew if we could get someone on and get to the top of the order Benny would come through for us. Enterprise coach David Faerber said.

Bennie Bratton's two-out single to left field in the bottom of the seventh inning scored Weldon Torrey with the winning run at the Enterprise Indians defeated Athens 2-1 for the state championship

Junior lefthander Robert Sheppard (5-1) went the distance for the victory, tossing a two-hitter. He struck out five and walked two and aided his own cause with a pair of triples, one of which scored James Bratton with the Indians go-ahead run in the fourth."

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