

AT YOUR SERVICE

Area Development

Victor Roterus

Assistant Chief, Area Development Division
Department of Commerce

The Shasta-Cascade area of northeastern California is a sparsely populated mountainous region whose development has lagged behind the remainder of the State despite natural recreational attractions, commercial timber, grazing lands, and minerals.

Local citizens, believing something needed to be done, first wanted a factual survey of the situation. They appealed to the State Reconstruction and Reemployment Commission which turned to the San Francisco regional office of the Area Development Division of the Department of Commerce. A three-sided cooperative effort was worked out—the local organizations retained the initiative and major responsibilities, the Area Development Division supplied technical, informational and advisory assistance. The survey was completed. A program was formulated and adopted by the local organization.

An Actual Example of Service

This is an actual example of a relatively new service of the Department of Commerce, which has long served business and industry in economic development. Traditionally this service has been given directly to individual businessmen, their trade associations and industry groups. However, more and more problems call for concerted, organized action—and on an area-wide basis.

The Area Development Division endeavors to make available the Department's data and technical resources in behalf of over-all business and industrial progress in local areas, States, and regions. As a corollary, the division represents the Department on inter-Federal agency activities in the area field.

The Area Development Division maintains close working contact with official State planning and development agencies, and through them with local area groups. Many of these agencies are charged with the responsibility for fostering commercial recreation in their respective States.

As a part of a technical seminar which the Division conducted last summer for representatives of approximately 30 States, a round-table discussion was held on recreation. Representatives participated from the Federal Inter-Agency Committee on Recreation, National Park Service, Army Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and Agricultural Extension Service.

Of interest to the travel and tourist industry is the division's periodical *Projects and Publications* which lists and describes statistical and other materials on the economic development of areas available in the Federal Government and elsewhere; it is free on request. Other publications are: *Establishing and Operating a Year-Round Motor Court*; *Tourist Courts—Operating Ratios*; and the bibliographies *Tourist Courts and Trailer Camps* (basic information sources), and *Tourist Travel Trade* (basic information sources).

Biloxi—Louisiana Territory's Two Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary

Anthony V. Ragusin

Secretary, Biloxi Chamber of Commerce

Biloxi on the Mississippi Gulf Coast has shrimp trawlers, oyster luggers, moss-draped oaks, magnolias, and pelicans—but outstanding is its lighthouse on West Beach Boulevard, now 100 years old.

During the War Between the States, the illuminating apparatus of the light was buried by Confederate sympathizers. Biloxi was captured by Federal forces based on Ship Island, 12 miles south in the Gulf of Mexico.

The lighthouse is now automatically operated by electricity and is under the jurisdiction and maintenance of the United States Coast Guard.

The Biloxi lighthouse occupies one of the most historic spots in all of the South. Nearby is the site of Fort Louis, third and last Biloxi capital of the French province of Louisiana, which later became the Louisiana Purchase Territory.

Early in 1699 the expedition sent out by Louis XIV of France to establish the colony of Louisiana arrived at Ship Island. These explorers first came ashore on February 13 on the mainland where the city of Biloxi now stands. They made friends with the Biloxi Indians, a small tribe belonging to the Sioux nation.

In 1720 and 1721 colonial Biloxi ruled as far north as Canada. There were nine judicial and military districts, including the Illinois, Wabash, Missouri, and Natchez. In 1722, the official capital was moved to the newly established river settlement of New Orleans.

Biloxi became the first permanent establishment of the Mississippi Valley and the first capital of the Louisiana Purchase Territory.

The two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Louisiana Purchase Territory is in 1949. April 8 is proposed as the official birthday date in Biloxi.

Annapolis Tercentenary

Annapolis, Md., is readying itself for a celebration of its three-hundredth anniversary May 22–27 under guidance of its tercentenary commission, with the purpose of (1) acquainting Anne Arundel County with its history, resources, and opportunities; (2) emphasizing Annapolis as an educational center and the leading eastern seaboard yachting harbor, with the greatest number of Colonial survivals in actual use.

Exhibits will continue through the week, such as historical window displays by merchants; a State Armory exhibition of Indian artifacts, county resources and industries, beauty spots, early historical household utensils, toys and playthings, costumes and accessories.

The week will be opened officially on Sunday, after special church services throughout the county, in the Naval Academy stadium; followed by visiting in colonial homes (all participants in costume) and a historical pageant on Monday, county parade and pageant Tuesday, parade Wednesday, with floats, water drills, and parade Thursday, and a costume ball in the Naval Academy Armory Friday.