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It was in the early 1960s...don't know the exact year. The last year it was City Hall was in 1949 (the year of my birth). I don't recall what offices were in the building after it moved to the present City Hall. I do remember visiting it a few times as a young kid & teenager with my grandfather, Louis S. Oncale who died in 1969. He worked & lived on Laurel Valley Plantation where my father was born in 1924. The cabin he was born in is still standing. He & his wife, Rosema Richard from Labadieville moved to N. 8th Street after the plantation closed in 1926. My parents moved into the shotgun house right behind them on N. 9th Street in the early 1950s & the family moved to 108 Lilac Street in 1957 (the second house built on Lilac Street). The first house on Lilac Street was 104 Lilac Street which belonged to the late Harris and Tessie Chiasson Chenier - wonderful people!) I have fond memories of Coulon Plantation & the sugar cane fields. We kids had so much fun in the cane fields before all the development. I remember going fishing in the old Water Reservoir next to the present day Warren J. Harang, Jr. Municipal Auditorium. You could see for miles with no obstructions. It was wonderful. Fishing under the Jackson Street Bridge always made our day. I remember having Boy Scout meetings and going to wedding receptions in the old Knights of Columbus Home in North Thibodaux (originally the old Judge Taylor Beattie Plantation Home) that was demolished and replaced by the present brick K.C. Home building. The old K.C. Home was the old country club headquarters before the K.C. I remember swimming in the old K.C. Pool as a kid and every Labor Day we participated in a large picnic on the K.C. Grounds. It was a wonderful social event for friends and families. All the old North Thibodaux Fire Co. families were at the picnic including the late Clerk of Court Ambroise Landry and State Farm agent Claude Hebert, who lived in North Thibodaux & were members of the North Thibodaux Fire Department. I also remember the annual Christmas parties at the old North Thibodaux Fire Co. that were on N. 8th Street. Gene Knobloch always played Santa Claus arriving on the fire truck singing Christmas songs with his ukulele. He would pass out gifts in the station to all the children of the fire company members. It was a wonderful event every year. I think these Christmas parties were an annual event at all the fire departments throughout the city.

My grandfather also worked for the city for many years. He did all the maintenance & lawn care for Mayor Leonard J. Toups' home. I remember going to the Mayor's house on numerous occasions with him to help with the care of the house & lawn. The Mayor & his wife Bell Leblanc were very kind people & down to earth, especially to our family. He was a great Mayor. My grandfather also worked for Drexler Motor Co., as well as my dad, Claiborne P. Oncale, Sr. I remember as a kid in the 50s going to the old Drexler Motor Co. on Main Street (now Johnny's Men Shop) & meeting the two owners, Joseph "Doc" and Cy Drexler. My dad was one of their salesmen on the road. The show rooms back then were so exciting to just stand in & admire the cars that would become the classics of today. My dad also worked for the old Acadia Dairy before he went into the Navy in 1944-1946, where he served aboard the USS Guam CB2 in the Pacific area & saw a lot of action. I remember my brother & I, along with two other old (now deceased) friends from N. Thibodaux making the front page of the Daily Comet in June, 1959. A car

had run over a 4 foot rattlesnake at the corner of Coulon Rd./N. 8th St/Lilac St (where we all lived).

Daily Comet (picture not published due to possible copyright infringements) photo description by me:

On the morning of Thursday, June 9,1959, my older brother C.J. "Roach" & I (pumped up for summer vacation) awoke to a dead rattlesnake at the corner of Coulon Road and N. 8th St (& Lilac Street where we & Errol Chenier [son of Harris & Tessie Chenier] lived) in N. Thibodaux. It was a good filler for The Lafourche Comet. We made the front page. WOW! Big news story for us kids. I remember it rained a lot the night before and the big ditches were flooded the next morning (good swimming ponds). The rattlesnake didn't stop us from going back barefooted into the Coulon Plantation sugar cane fields (before Cameco & all the present-day development); after all, that was our playground back then. We used to kill poisonous snakes back there & tear down sugar cane to make secret cabins. We had a lot of fun back then even with the snakes.

Hope you enjoyed my reminiscing.
Wayne Oncale, Thibodaux native