

Kaplan, Louisiana

Kaplan is called the "Gateway to the Coastal Wetlands". Like the other Vermilion Parish areas, hunting, fishing and farming are all alive in Kaplan. As the parish's second largest city, Kaplan, Louisiana has a unique history.

In 1896, the Holy Rosary Catholic Church was established in the Kaplan area. Kaplan got its name later when Abram Kaplan bought the Jim Todd Plantation in 1901. Kaplan grew quickly and was established in 1902. On July 14, 1906, the first Bastille Day Celebration was held. In 1911, the Eleazar Theater was built. In the year 1916, the Kaplan Telephone Company began.

Kaplan schools have been through a lot of changes. In 1903, first school was formed. In 1920, the school was rebuilt. Now Vermilion Parish has 20 public schools and 4 private schools. Kaplan has four schools. Kaplan Elementary, Rene Rost Middle School and Kaplan High School. Maltrait is a private school in Kaplan. Kaplan Elementary is Pre K-4th grade. Rene Rost is a 5th through 8th grade school. Kaplan High School has grades 9,10,11 and 12.

Many terrible things happened through the years. In 1917 World War I began. In 1941 World War II began. Many Vermilion Parish men fought in World War I began in 1917 and World War II began in 1942. The Korean War began in 1950. The Vietnam War began in 1965 and in 1991 men fought in the Gulf War. Kaplan survived many tragedies with fires, hurricanes, floods and sicknesses.

In 2005, Kaplan now has a lot of businesses. It is a city with over 5,000 people. Some of the landmarks are the Kaplan City Hall, Post Office, Police Station, Fire Station and the Kaplan Museum (Le Musee de la Ville de Kaplan). The museum has old photographs and artifacts for everyone to see. Kaplan, Louisiana, or "The Gateway to the Coastal Wetlands", has an interesting history and has always had interesting people.