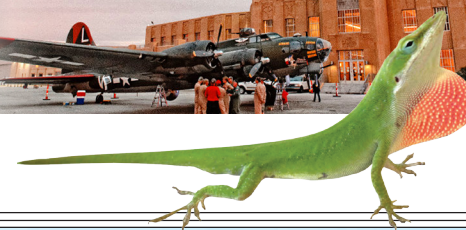




**WHAT
HAPPENED**

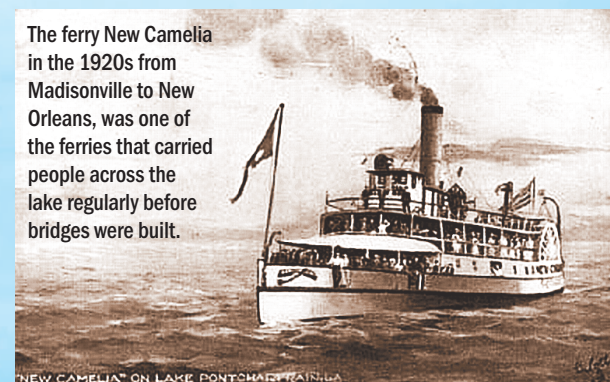
The first span
of the Lake
Pontchartrain
Causeway opened
Aug. 30, 1956.



New Orleans was practically an island until **bridges over Lake Pontchartrain** were built in the 20th century.

While ferry service had been available across the lake since the city's early days, the first bridge to permanently link New Orleans to the other side of the lake, the Highway 11 or Maestri bridge, was completed in 1928 and tied eastern New Orleans to Slidell. This privately owned toll bridge, almost 5 miles long, was opposed by Gov. Huey P. Long, who was in the middle of the state's major infrastructure build. When the owners refused to sell the

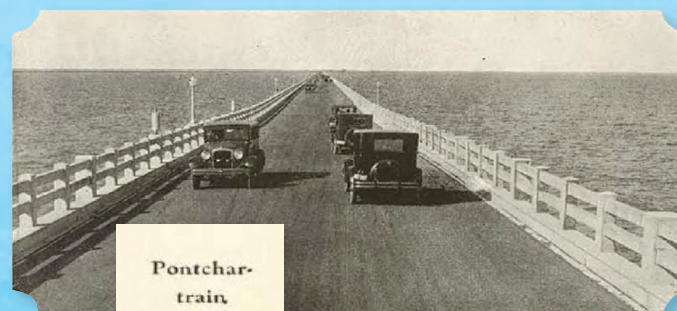
The ferry New Camelia in the 1920s from Madisonville to New Orleans, was one of the ferries that carried people across the lake regularly before bridges were built.



bridge to the state, Long built a free state bridge through the Rigolets and essentially put the private owners of the bridge out of business. They were forced to sell their \$5 million span to the state for less than \$1 million. The bridge was eventually named after Bob Maestri, a Long supporter and mayor of New Orleans. It is still used today.

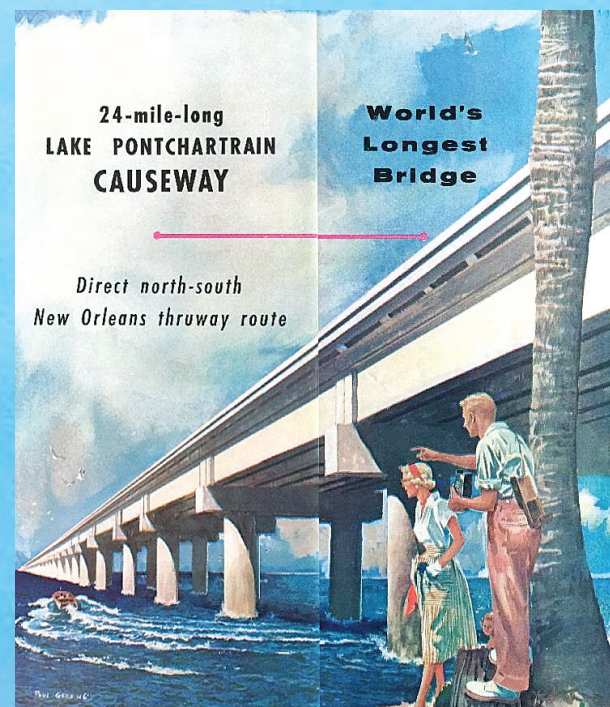
More important for the region, though, was the completion of the 23.86-mile Causeway bridge that opened in 1956. The second side of the bridge was completed in 1969. Listed as the longest continuous bridge in the world by the Guinness Book of World Records, the bridge expanded the metropolitan region to include Mandeville and the rest of the north shore.

The toll bridge has also been named a Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, in part because of its first-of-a-kind use of prestressed concrete to construct larger pilings with a greater strength.



Pontchar-
train
Bridge
+
Longest
Continuous
Concrete
Bridge in the
World.
A Five-Mile
Drive Across
the Waters
of Lake
Pontchartrain.

The Highway 11 bridge
over Lake Pontchartrain
was featured in the 1935
Super Bowl program.



24-mile-long
LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN
CAUSEWAY

**World's
Longest
Bridge**

Direct north-south
New Orleans thruway route

The 24-mile
Lake Ponchar-
train Causeway
has been listed
in the Guinness
Book of World
Records as the
world's longest
bridge since
1969.