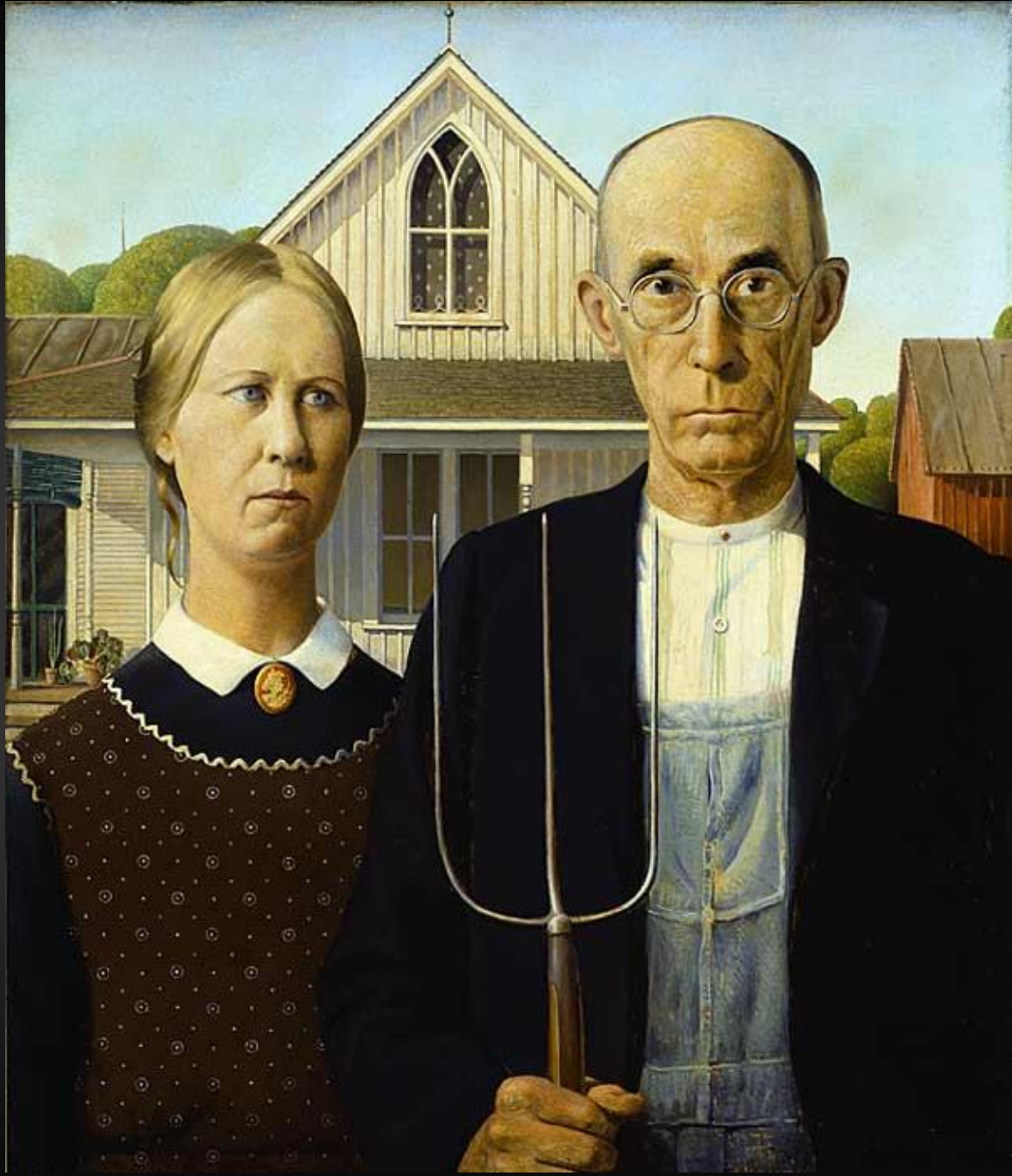


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NEW ORLEANS ITEM

80th Year—112

Thursday, October 18, 1956

Price 5 Cents



ABARA VIATOR—SUGAR CANE AND A WAY OF LIFE

—Photo by AP/Wide

They Take It Over My Dead Body!

BY PHIL JOHNSON

(New Staff Writer)

NEW IBERIA.—"This land been mine for a long time. I won't give it up. If they take it, they take it over my dead body."

The old man was sad and very grave—but ramrod-straight, for all his 64 years.

He stood in the saddle and peered far off, over acres flat with sugar cane restless with the wind. He was dirty from the fields and sweaty from the sun and wrinkled with the years. But he wore the air of a patriarch.

Abara Viator is a Cajun, whose culture was old when America was new.

"... this land been mine for a long time. . ."

His roots go back to Evangeline. His ancestors settled almost 200 years ago—Acadians expelled from Nova Scotia by the English.

He inherited the land from his father, who had gotten it from his father.

He has known no other home.

"If they take it, they take it over my dead body. . ."

Abara Viator was not being brave, or melodramatic, or impressive.

He was merely stating facts.

He looked you in the eye and spoke quietly and you knew he meant what he said.

And this is where the tragedy lies.

Because they are taking Abara's land. He must give it up. And there isn't a thing he can do about it.

The Navy needs 3410 acres for a jet plane airfield northwest of New Iberia. And Abara's 400 acres are among those which have been expropriated.

The only question now remains the price. A jury of freeholders in federal court will decide if the government's offer of between \$400 and \$530 an acre is fair.

(See NEW IBERIA, P. 3, C. 4)





























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NAICC CRAWFISH BOIL ON THE HILL

CLOTURECLUB MARCH 10, 2011 0

Title: NAICC Crawfish Boil on the Hill

Location: Longworth Cafeteria

Description: The National Alliance Of Independent Crop Consultants Invites You to the

NAICC Crawfish Boil on the Hill

Tuesday, March 15

6-8pm

Longworth Cafeteria

Start Time: 18:00

Date: 2011-03-15

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