Allons Partout
Heureusement
To each of you may we extend a warm welcome to the Klondike-Lowery area of Cameron Parish. This is the fifth consecutive year that the Cameron Parish Home Demonstration Council has sponsored a Know-Your-Parish Tour for homemakers.

The Klondike-Lowery Home Demonstration Club hopes that each of you will enjoy your day with us. The materials presented in this booklet were collected in many different ways and from many different people, -- much in conversations and interviews with the senior citizens in our community. We can not verify that each scrap of information is accurate - but it is as accurate as was possible under the circumstances.

Mrs. Bonnie Vincent
HD Club President

The Klondike-Lowery area of Cameron Parish is located in the extreme northeastern corner of Cameron Parish. These two communities have approximately 300 residents.

Mr. Mayo Cain serves as Assistant Police Jury member. (He is liaison between the people of the community and Mr. Horace Mhire, Ward 1 Police Jury member who resides in Grand Chenier); Mr. Percy David is School Board member and Mr. Francis Klein is Deputy Sheriff. Mr. Bob Eliotte serves as Justice of the Peace.

Rice is the major agricultural crop grown in the area. Soybeans is an important crop too. In addition, cattle and oil play a large part in the economy of the area. The area is well-known for hunting and fishing.

1. LAKE ARTHUR PARK

2. THE CLAYVEN BROUSSARD HOME

One of the most interesting rock gardens and collections of lawn displays is found at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clayven A. Broussard, Sr., 324 Arthur Avenue.

Their property is a part of the 677 acres originally owned by Alexander Charles Declouet, which was "done and signed by Andres Jackson and Elyas Heywood, Commissioner of General Land Office in 1807." It was acquired by the Town of Lake Arthur Lot and Land Company, being D. W. Marquart, W. E. Chapin, Sam Marquart, and E. L. Lee. It was platted in the year 1888.

This lot is known as Lot 23 of Block 7, original plat of Lake Arthur. It was sold to Kate C. Smith, who married Charles Kingery. After his death, she married John M. Ney, who had the present house built in 1908 by a man named King and his two sons.

In 1929 it was sold to Harold Riguely, who in 1943 sold it to Clayven Broussard.
Mr. Broussard is the son of Alpha Broussard and of Alice Benoit Broussard. Mrs. Broussard is the daughter of Felix Thibodeaux and Marcelite Bacidreaux Thibodeaux. The Broussards have one child, Clayven Broussard, Jr., who with his wife and children live in Lafayette.

3. LAKE ARTHUR CAMPGROUNDS

The scenic beauty of the Lake Arthur Camp Grounds provides a back-to-nature setting for the hundreds of people who camp and worship there each year. Tabernacle and cottages are nestled beneath the moss-draped oaks, and the green land slopes gently to the blue-gray waters of Lake Arthur itself.

The grounds belong to the Lake Arthur Camp Meeting Association. This organization will hold its 74th annual meeting in July.

In the early part of 1895, the Rev. Robert P. Howell, pastor of the Lake Arthur Methodist Episcopal Church, South, sought to make his vision of an interdenominational spiritual retreat become a reality. He was looking for a place with a high beach, beautiful shade trees, and sufficient grounds for the building of a tabernacle and for camp cottages, dormitories, and a place to eat.

Is there any wonder that he chose the present site? The ten acres purchased from W. W. Eastman for something like $550 has a five-acre lake front.

At that time the present parish of Jefferson Davis was a part of old Calcasieu.

On September 14, 1895, the South Louisiana Holiness Camp Meeting Association was formed. The charter was signed by A. B. Wilkinson, Frederick Ney, F. E. Notestine, D. G. Leslie, J. F. Johnson, A. W. Cheney, and Robert P. Howell. It was attested to by Sam Marquart, founder of the town of Lake Arthur, and its first trustee, 1892, and by J. F. Kester. The charter was signed in the old Marquart General Store, located on the triangle opposite Live Oak Park. It was notarized on September 17, 1895, by E. M. Burke. It was approved by Edmond D. Miller, District Attorney of the Twelfth Judicial District in Lake Charles, on September 25, 1895. It was officially signed and stamped by W. H. Haskell, Jr., deputy clerk of the above district on April 27, 1897.

The first camp meeting was held in September of 1895 on the present grounds. A tent and an organ had been purchased. The Rev. Howell, assisted by the Rev. John J. Morrill of Cartersville, Georgia, and other preachers conducted services. The first organist was a fourteen-year old girl from Bell City, a Miss Holland, now Mrs. Cox.

In 1898 the Association completed the purchase of its ten acres of land and gave an old-fashioned log-rolling and brush-clearing reception. In the course of time, there were built the tabernacle, dining hall, dormitories, cottages, and other permanent improvements.

On July 15, 1945, a special golden anniversary and commemoration day was held. A huge fifty-candle birthday cake was cut and served to all who were present.
To the first camp meeting came people from all directions. From Grand Chenier and Leesburg (the former name for Cameron), travelers came up the Mermentau and from Pecan Island they came across White Lake in sailboats or in ocean-going schooners. The boats dropped anchor out in the lake, and the occupants rowed in to shore in skiffs. Captain Charles Nelson of Grand Chenier sailed up to every camp meeting in his D. HEBERT. On several occasions in the early 1900's the Isaac (Ike) Vaughans came up from Grand Chenier in his gasoline launch, THE CRESCENT.

Overland came others in horse-drawn wagons. They brought tents, cots, and mosquito bars. They brought food to cook over open fires or on small furnaces if the family was lucky enough to own one. They brought hay for their teams. More than all else, they brought a zeal for religious worship and a willingness to voice their convictions to all the world.

During the first meetings ruffians rode their horses into the open tabernacle and even went so far as to brandish and fire their guns in an effort to disperse the worshipers. The Rev. Howell, it is said, feeling that God was on his side, never feared man.

Deputy sheriffs were then stationed around the camp grounds to insure peace and safety.

A line of gasoline torches, regulated by valves, were mounted on poles or trees along the old dirt road that led to the tabernacle. The road would become so boggy that the entrance had to be re-routed several times.

The mosquitoes were even worse than the roads. Smudge pots were used in and around buildings, or smokes were made in the open.

The first dormitory for the men and the first for the women were without cots or bunks. Hay was spread over the floor. Each person brought his own sheet, blanket, and pillow and availed himself of a hay bed.

Before long a kitchen and a dining room, separated from each other, were built. The dirt floors were covered with sawdust until the Board of Health stepped in.

In 1903 the Southern Pacific Railroad completed its branch line from Lake Charles to Lake Arthur. The first train that came in brought an excursion from Lake Charles to the Camp Grounds. Nearly everyone here turned out to meet the train.

Over the decades some of the families who came year after year to worship were the Miltons, Wilkinsons, Neys, Fontenots, Marquarts, Tolers, Bakers, Lamberts, Shafers, Hollands, Millers, Blockers, Lyons, Macks, Vaughans, Hardees, Hartwells and Longmans.

Any Christian may become a member of the Association by subscribing to the Apostles' Creed and to the doctrine of Entire Sanctification as set forth in "First Thessalonians," Fifth Chapter, 23rd and 24th verses, and by signing a copy of their constitution, according to the charter of the Association.
Summer camps for both youth and adults are also held on the grounds each year by the Church of Christ, the Luther Rice Baptist Association, and the Full Gospel. From 200 to 300 attend each encampment. Most of the supervising and teaching at such camps are under the leadership of the church laity.

It is interesting to note that Bernese Marquart, the present Grounds and Business Manager of the Camp Grounds, attended that first Camp Meeting seventy-four years ago as an infant of a few weeks. The Rev. Howell, the visionary who turned a dream into a reality, was the father of Mrs. Joe Hayes (Minnie May) of Lake Charles. And Judge E. D. Miller, who approved the charter, was a native of Grand Chenier.

4. LAKESIDE

Lakeside was platted into town sites long before Lake Arthur. Lakeside once had a post office, a hotel, a newspaper and several stores and its idea blossomed.

From Iowa came Dr. E. I. Hall, N. L. Miller and several other settlers. Miller opened a newspaper and hotel. And Dr. Hall served the medical needs and took care of the mail. But the promised riches dreamed from oranges, faded out as two freezes came and about 1896, Miller and Dr. Hall went to Jennings. Here Miller operated the newspaper for 26 years. Dr. Hall practiced medicine and became postmaster here. Both became sires of five Jennings families.

After the departure of Dr. Hall, Mrs. Nunnemaker became post mistress.

Jules and Gustave Laurents carried mail by boat from Mermentau to Lakeside.

Farmers on Lakeside at the time were Mr. Kiplinger, Mr. Fatherie, Mr. McKnob and Mr. McCain.

5. "KLONDIKE" PLANTATION

Large portions of "Klondike" area were owned originally by Joachin Revellon, Albert Mauton and/or Emanuel Shuman. Mr. Revellon acquired his on September 6, 1857 by United States Patent. This was sold to Jabez B. Watkins on August 14, 1883. Watkins sold large tracts of land to North American Land and Timber Company, Limited. They in turn sold to different individuals.

In 1882, Desire Hebert acquired some 15 different tracts of land. This property was acquired by Charles A. Lowry and numerous other people on May 12, 1893. This particular deed is most interesting. It called for an initial payment of $40,000 with the remainder to be paid on specified dates all at 6% interest. It also indicates the original patent numbers of the State of Louisiana issued about 1849.

On January 6, 1900, Charles Lowry sold his share to Peter K. Miller. The Miller property was sold to Emma J. and William P. Harrison on September 2, 1908. William and Emma J. Harrison
sold to Fred E. Harrison in 1908 the following piece of property: The east 120 acres of land of the southeast one quarter (SE 1/4) of Section Four in Township 12 South of Range 3 West of Louisiana meridian, except a strip of land previously sold to the Lake Side Irrigation Company, described as the canal that the Zigler Company barges at one time used to transport rice from a large warehouse, which was located behind Allen Smith's Camp.

In 1926 and 1927, R. F. Smith purchased this property and helped organize Dixie Rice Agricultural Corporation, Inc., on January 26, 1928, at which time these lands were turned over to this company. The first president of Dixie Rice Agricultural Corporation, Inc. was A. Kaplan; the present president is Allen H. Smith. The company owns approximately 9403 acres of land on which 3269 acres of rice was produced in 1968.

Hunting clubs are owned and operated by Percy David, Rufus Dugas, Sr., Whitney O. Broussard and LeeLee Broussard of the Klondike area.

There is one oil field - the South Lake Arthur Oil field.

5A. KLONDIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

June 19, 1959, marked the close of the Klondike Elementary School for the session of 1958-59. It also marked the cessation of Cameron Parish Schools in the northeastern part of the parish. Since then pupils in the communities of Klondike, Lakeside and Lowery have attended public or parochial schools in Lake Arthur, Jefferson Davis Parish, or in Gueydan, Vermilion Parish.

Schools in the Klondike area date back to some time between 1905 and 1910. The late F. B. Kennedy taught in a one-room school some two miles south of the present location for one session during those years. Mr. Kennedy later taught in Cameron and still later became postmaster there.

In 1913, when Thomas W. McCall became superintendent, the school was located about one mile west of the present site and on the opposite side of the road.

A Mr. Tom Pretty wanted the location moved because of a drainage problem on the Klondike Plantation; and, so, on January 24, 1916, the T. P. Ranch Company donated for "term or use for school purposes" SE 1 acre in Section 2, Township 12, South, Range 3 West.

In the 1918 hurricane the Klondike School Building was badly damaged along with 17 other schoolhouses in the parish, leaving only the one at Grand Chenier intact.

The Klondike School was repaired, only to be demolished by a small tornado about five o'clock one afternoon in the spring of 1921. Only the floor remained.
Nothing was ever found of the rest of the building nor of the school paraphernalia.

Again, a one-room school was constructed. While this was being repaired, classes were held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Cain; until the school house was finished. They were the parents of Mayo Cain, who stills lives in that same house.

On September 8, 1927, the foregoing deed was annulled and set aside in exchange for the following: Richard F. Smith, 1 acre in SE corner of Section 11, Township 12 South, Range 3 West, donated for school purposes, and for the duration of the school. (This is the present site of the last school.)

On March 22, 1937, one additional acre from Dixie Rice Agricultural Corp., NW Corner of Section 12, Township 12 South, Range 3 West, was donated for school purposes for the duration of the school.

On April 1, 1957, an exchange for land used in a highway program was made by Dixie Rice Agricultural Corp., Sec. 12, Township 12 South, Range 3 West.

In 1936, when the Lakeside School was consolidated with the Klondike school, a new room, library, and hallway were added. Incidentally, $2,700 was the contract price paid to Newton Sweeney, a native of Grand Chenier, but then a resident of Lake Charles, for this addition.

In 1949, the original schoolroom was cut into latrines and a hallway and a forty-eight foot extension, including a classroom, an office, and a cafeteria, were added to the east of the building.

In the fall of 1946 Live Oak School of Lowery was consolidated with Klondike Elementary. Seven grades were taught as there had been throughout the history of the three separate schools whenever there were pupils of those grades within the communities.

Whitney Landry, bus operator, began transporting the Lowery pupils to Klondike. He continued in that capacity until the school ceased to function.

With the consolidation of the Lakeside School, pupils from that section had also been transferred to Klondike. One of the earliest bus drivers was Sevenia Dyson, who operated for a short time. Nicholas Renoit, who followed, continued until his retirement in 1959.
Sidney Vincent was a bus driver in 1936-37 on the road south of Klondike School. Other drivers in the Klondike community during the fifteen years preceding the closure of the school were Mrs. L. C. Melancon and Sosthene Vincent.

Adonis Vincent was school maintenance man from 1939 to about 1949, when he retired. Mayo Cain took his place and worked in that capacity for the remaining ten years.

Following is a partial list of Klondike School teachers:

1912-13, Miss Eleanor Noland; 1913-14, Miss Edith Rutherford; 1915-16, Miss Emma Portie; 1916-17, Miss Nellie Temple; 1917-18, Miss Sallie Owens; 1927-28, Miss Bessie Nunez; 1928-29, Miss Amy Belle Richard; 1929-30, Miss Eva Braud; 1930-31, Miss Lottie Vaughan; 1931-36, Miss Sarah McCrary; 1936-39, Archie Hollister and Miss McCrary; 1939-40, Mr. Hollister, Miss McCrary, and Miss Gertrude Stromer; 1940-41, Mr. Hollister, Miss McCrary, and Miss Estille Broussard; 1941-42, Mr. Hollister, Miss McCrary, and Miss Florence Broussard; 1942-43, Mr. Hollister, Miss Florence Broussard, Miss Fae Carson, and Mrs. Bessie White.

When Mr. Hollister left in November, 1942, to serve in the United States Army in World War II, Ernest Gallet replaced him as principal. In the spring of 1944 when Mr. Gallet was called into service Mr. Hollister returned to assume the principalship.

In 1943 to 1944, teaching with Mr. Gallet, were Miss Carson, Mrs. Frank Giozza, and Mrs. Edwin Ellender.

During the 1945-46 session the Klondike teaching staff consisted of Mr. Hollister, Miss Carson, and Mrs. Ellender; 1946-47, Mr. Hollister, Mrs. A. P. (Bernice) Stewart, Mrs. George (Fannie) Savoy, and Miss Blanche Moore; 1947-50, Mr. Hollister, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Bessie White, and Mrs. Savoy; 1950-51, Miss Blanche Hartwell supplanted Mrs. Savoy, who retired after having taught forty years; 1951-52, the same.

On December 22, 1951, Miss Hartwell and Mr. Hollister were married, proof that romance blossoms in prosaic places.

In 1952-53 Mrs. Louis Trahan, Jr., (the former Wilda Woods) replaced Mrs. White, who had also retired. The other teachers remained. In 1953-54 Miss Adeline Lockwood replaced Mrs. Hollister.

From 1954-57 teachers were Mr. Hollister, Mrs. Stewart, Miss Lockwood, and Mrs. Clint Irwin (the former Mary Cole).
In the fall of 1957 Klondike was apportioned only three teachers, due to decrease in enrollment. Miss Lockwood was transferred to Grand Lake High, but returned at the end of the first period to replace Mrs. Irwin, whose family had moved to Lisbon, La.

From then on the only teachers were Mr. Hollister, Mrs. Stewart, and Miss Lockwood.

Klondike reached its zenith of enrollment with 102 pupils in December, 1941. The average for that year was 90.

Lakeside Teachers

Incomplete records show the following Lakeside teachers:
1912-13, Miss Bertha Stine; 1913-14, Miss Mattie Broadway; 1915-16, Miss Elsie Pearce; 1916-17, Miss Lily Nunez; 1928-29, Miss Sylvia Miller; 1929-30, Miss Margaret James, replaced by Miss Inez Spell.

Lowery Teachers

Lowery, home of the Live Oak School, was also the home of A. G. Murray, superintendent of Cameron Parish Schools for 16 years prior to 1913, at which time Thomas W. McCall was elected to serve in that capacity.

Bryant A. Murray, son of the superintendent was married to Miss Anna Hubbs, a teacher in the Live Oak School at the time.

Ulysse Primeaux of Creole also taught at Live Oak for a year. He was then appointed postmaster at Lowery, to which place mail was brought by boat from Lake Arthur. Mr. Primeaux also ran a store in connection with the post office.

Miss Tom Winnfield taught there in 1915-16. From 1916-18 Miss Almena Hosea taught.

Ulric E. Hackett, who became parish superintendent upon the retirement of T. W. McCall, was principal of Live Oak the year that it became a two-room school. Miss Flora Stewart was his assistant. Here was another example of a romance, born in a schoolroom and culminating in marriage.

The enrollment of Live Oak that year was approximately eighty.

James Gardiner, owner of the Lowery Plantation at that time, donated two acres of land for the school site.
The John M. Vincent Home

The present John M. Vincent home was the site of the second home built in the Vincent community. The old house was torn down in 1965. The old part was pegged and on one of the joints was the date 1882. Several additions were later added on. In the '30's the house was remodeled and center mat was put on all walls and ceilings. Before that the walls were upright boards and some of the rooms had no ceiling. The outside walls were made from rough boards but were replaced with weather boards at the time of remodeling.

The original house was built by Gerastan Vincent. After his death, his brother, Demonsthene, bought it from Gerastan's widow. He later sold it to his nephews John M. and Felician, and their mother. They had to buy it together in order to have enough money to be able to purchase it. In fact, all their land was bought this way. John M. later inherited his mother's share of the property which included this house. In 1945 or '46 he and Felician divided the joint property and John's share included all of this place.

All Cameron land that was owned jointly was surveyed. However, one tract of land in Vermillion Parish was separated on paper but to this day has never been surveyed to find out where the line is.

The Vinicents from this community had to go to Leesburg, now known as Cameron, to pay their taxes, taking about three days to do so. They would make the journey on the schooners, "The White Lilly" and "The Sweet".

Almost everyone in this vicinity is a Vincent. If the husband isn't one, the wife was.
Miss Lucille LeBeeuf taught there for several sessions; for, with decrease in enrollment, the school again had only one teacher.

She was succeeded by Mrs. George Savoy, who taught there until the school was consolidated with Klondike in 1946.

In December, 1948, the first hot lunches were served at Klondike School. Cooking was done in the storehouse behind the school building. At noon pupils would file out to receive a plate of food and would return to their classrooms to eat at their desks.

Swimming classes were taught by Mr. Hollister every spring until 1957. Mrs. Stewart, during the years that she taught there, sponsored a small but active 4-H Club.

6. THE VINCENT COMMUNITY

The first settler of the Vincent Community was Valsant Vincent (great-grandfather of Gladys Cain and John M. Vincent, Jr.) He built the original house of Austin Benoit. The house has since been remodeled and added on to. There are four generations still living there.

Valsant and his wife, the former Lena Broussard, came from Grand Chenier (having moved there from Abbeville) with six children: Jean, Demonsthenes, Philogene, Gerastan, Thoizime, and Zalia. A couple of years before coming to Grand Chenier there had been a bad hurricane there. Mrs. Vincent saw some skeletal remains in a tree there and became afraid so they came to this vicinity - the Vincent Community.

Valsant Vincent (no birthdate) was son of Jean Baptiste Aime Vincent

\[ \text{Grandfather---Pierre Vincent---Born in St. Martin Parish---1752} \]

\[ \text{Great grandfather---Joseph Vincent---Born in Canada---1722---Died as a prisoner in Liverpool, England.} \]

\[ \text{Great, great, grandfather---Michael Vincent---Born in Canada, 1688.} \]

\[ \text{Great, great, great, grandfather---Pierre Vincent---Born in France in 1631---arrived in Canada 1654.} \]

The Originations of the Vincepts of Vincent Community - In 1785, the Acadians from Belle Ile en Mer, France, arrived on the ship "Le Beaumont" after years of migration from Canada to England and then to various sections of France. The first of our Vincent ancestors, Pierre Vincent, set foot in Louisiana soil.
In Reference to "The Dueling Site":

Mr. Felician Vincent was one of the men who went with a wagon to get the two men to bring them out of the marsh. There were no wagon roads at that time.
The Acadians settling in Belle Ile en Mer in 1765 by agreement between England and the French King, were few in number. After years of failure of crops, (they were good farmers, but had been given the most sterile land which they had been unable to make produce), and sickness among the group, many died. Then in 1768, they received a bill from the government (in error) to pay their tithe, which was not due until 1769, and when they appealed to the Province of Brittany for time to pay the taxes, they were told to "pay or leave." Belle Ile en Mer collapsed in 1772, and the twice expelled exiles retired again to the maritime ports of France.

In 1783, Peyroux de La Coudreniere, who had amassed a fortune in Louisiana, returned to France, and after discussing the plight of the Acadians with them, persuaded the King of Spain, through the Spanish Consul at St. Malo, it would be to the benefit of his country to sponsor the unfortunate Acadian settlement in Louisiana.

Sunday, May 10, 1785, after 29 years of aimless exile, punctuated by frustrated dreams and unscrupulous abuse of their gentle character, the first group of 156 Acadians left the King and France for Louisiana in the frigate "Le Bon Papa."

"Le Beaumont" was the third ship of the Acadian expedition. Peyroux de La Coudreniere, the main organizer of the entire transfer to Louisiana, also crossed on this expedition. Of this group, 41 families of 145 people settled at Baton Rouge, 3 families of 8 persons went to La Fourche, and 5 families of 20 members to Atakapas. It was September 9, 1785, when all were settled in their new homes. Pierre Vincent was listed as number 40 on the ship's roster, and was one of twenty who settled in the Atakapas.

Pierre Vincent married Agnes Broussard on January 12, 1788. She also crossed on the "Le Beaumont" and settled in Atakapas country. She died soon after their marriage without issue.

He then married Catherine Galman, widow of Benoit Hargrove, on April 20, 1791. Catherine was the daughter of Michael Galman and Marie Francoise of France. This union between Pierre and Catherine produced ten children from whom we derive our heritage.

Pierre was born in 1752 and died in 1827. His parents were Joseph Vincent, Acadian, and Marie Cotard.

7. DUEL SITE AND JUPITER PLANT

The Dueling Site (The year 1913, the month of August) - Two men, Mr. O'Neal and Mr. Will, were neighbors and friends who lived near the Intracoastal Canal. The younger Mr. Will, a bachelor, was engaged to Mr. O'Neal's daughter. After coming home one day, Mr. Will found some of his things missing and accused O'Neal's children of stealing them. Mr. O'Neal became so angered at this accusation that he challenged Mr. Will to a duel and returned home for his shotgun. Mr. Will, coming thru his swinging gate, met Mr. O'Neal on the road. They both fired at the same time and both were killed. So ended this friendship.

The end of a friendship and the beginning of a legend - the legend of the gate that never stopped swinging after Mr. Will went out of it on that fateful day.

8. NUNEZ BOAT STORE AND DOCK
9. GROCERY STORE

Clarence A. Benoit Grocery Store (owner and operator since 1950.)

10. OLD HOME IN KLONDIKE COMMUNITY

Another old home built by Valirian Dugas, some one hundred years ago, which belonged to Mrs. Ira Melancon's great grandfather. Part of the old home place is still standing. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mayo Cain.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cain of Indian Bayou bought the old home place in 1918.

11. NO MAN'S LAND

A strip of land between Cameron and Vermilion, three arpents (about an acre) wide, all along the length of Cameron Parish. This strip of land is not shown on the map. People living on this section of land have squatter's rights, and the right to vote in which ever parish they choose, Cameron or Vermilion.

12. LAFITTE CLUB

The Laffite Club is located on the strip of "No Man's Land". The Laffite Club, better known as the Silver Dollar Club is where the old time fait-do-do used to take place every Saturday night.

On the west side of the Silver Dollar Club was a race track. Every Sunday afternoon horseracing would take place there.

After the main attraction of horseracing, the men would unsaddle their horses and unhitch the mules from the wagons and have horse and mule races.

13. LAKESHORE CLUB

The famous Lake Shore Club, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Ayo, was built in 1946. Three nights a week, delicious seafood is served in the beautiful "Anchor Room" overlooking the Mermentau River.

14. LUNCH - PARK

15. LOWERY PLANTATION

The Lowery Plantation was started by Captain Lowery who had bought the 8000 acres of farm land from Desire Hebert around 1890. He had dreams of rice farming on a big scale and brought a group from Indiana to help him get started. However, they were not very successful with this venture. Then many "no-gooders" started drifting in and the vicinity became run down.
The owners then started getting good farmers in to farm sections of the plantation. As they prospered, they made many improvements, such as better roads and homes and building up the community.

16. FIRST STORE IN LOWERY COMMUNITY & FIRST POST OFFICE IN LOWERY

The first store in Lowery was in a large two story home, where the Martin Tavis family lives at present. The Whitmans lived there for years, until the time of his death about 1965 or '66. The Post Office at this time was in a house south of the store. The Ceaser Guidry family lived in the back part of the house; the Post Office operated in the front part. The mail was brought from Lake Arthur by boat, to the landing at the Green House and someone would be waiting to bring it to the Post Office.

17. FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN LOWERY COMMUNITY

The first school house was on the East side of the road before going through the woods (about 50 years ago). Mr. Murry was the superintendent. He lived in Thornwell and would commute every day to the school. His daughter, Olga, and son, Brant, were teachers at this time. Sometimes after 1920, the location of the school house was changed and named Live Oak School. It was built on the south side of the woods and on the west side of the main road. Some of the teachers that taught here at Live Oak School were: Miss Sara McCrary, Miss Lucille LeBoeuf and Mrs. George Savoie. Mrs. Savoie taught until the school was torn down and the children went to school at Klondike.

Fifty nine years ago, Ulyesse Benoit had a store and post office where Live Oak School was. In about 1930, Ulyesse Primeaux had a post office and store across the road on the south of Live Oak School. That is where the George Savoies lived while Mrs. Savoie was teaching and where Bob Eliotte lives now.

18. LACASSINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge is near the southern end of a chain of refuges in the Mississippi Flyway. It consists of 31,125 acres in Cameron Parish, and is 11 miles southwest of Lake Arthur, Louisiana. Established in 1937 to preserve a small portion of the once vast marshland of southern Louisiana and to provide a haven for waterfowl, it is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The primary attraction on the Lacassine Refuge is the 16,000 acre pool which was created by the construction of dikes around a block of sawgrass-maïcancemarsh. By the use of various methods of management, burning, water manipulation, herbicides and underwater cutters, this pool has been changed from an unproductive marsh into a first-class waterfowl area, with an abundant supply of submerged, floating and emergent waterfowl foods.
During August, the first of the migrating waterfowl begin to arrive. The early migrants—blue winged teal and a few pintails—stop briefly before continuing on into Mexico. In early October, however, the wintering waterfowl begin moving in. These build up in numbers, reaching a peak of half a million by mid-December. Thousands of mallards, pintails, American wigeons, and shovellers feed in the big pool. Scaups, gadwalls, and wood ducks occur in smaller numbers.

Although the waterfowl population during the winter season is very impressive, hardly less spectacular are the wading birds which nest here during the summer. Most interesting but rather inaccessible is the large nesting area located in the northeastern section of the refuge. Within the past few years, the rather rare roseate spoonbill has begun nesting in this location. Here, too, is the first American nesting colony of cattle egrets outside of Florida. Many thousands of white-faced ibises, white ibises, common and snowy egrets, Louisiana and little blue herons, black-crowned and yellow-crowned night herons, and anhingas may also be found nesting.

Out in the pool, accessible only by airboat, are two small cypress groves, namely, Blue Grove and Black Grove. During the summer, they are the nesting sites for hundreds of great blue herons, common egrets, anhingas and olixacesus comorants. An eagles nest may also be found here, high in the top of a cypress.

Within the pool itself, hidden among the water lilies, may be found the floating nests of the purple and common gallinules and the coot. Along the dikes are found the nests of the mottled duck. Late in the summer, the pool plays hosts to large numbers of fulvous tree ducks.

Although established primarily to provide a haven for waterfowl, protection is provided to all other forms of wildlife. There are a number of animals of interest on the refuge, including nutrias and armadillas. Alligators are common in the marshes.

In addition, otters, minks, raccoons, muskrats, skunks, and rabbits are found.

A 325 acre plot is planted annually to such grazing crops as ryegrass, rye, wheat, and oats to attract and furnish food for thousands of Canada, white-front, blue and snow geese.

The refuge is open to sport fishing during the summer months, usually from March 15 to October 15. The refuge pool is a favored spot for fishermen from all Southwest Louisiana. Rollerways are provided across the levees at each of the spillways and at one other spot along the Bell City Ditch to assist fishermen in getting their boats into the pool. Excellent catches of black bass, bream, and white perch are very common.

The refuge can only be reached by boat, and travel on the pool is only by airboat. Refuge headquarters can, however, be reached by road. Follow State Route 14 west from Lake Arthur for about 6 miles and at that point, turn south on State Route 3056 and proceed 5 miles to headquarters.

Hotel and motel accommodations can be found at Jennings, 22 miles from refuge headquarters, and at Welsh, about 18 miles from headquarters. Rooms and meals can be obtained in Lake Arthur.
For further information concerning the refuge, and fishing regulations, write the Refuge Manager, Route 1, Box 186, Lake Arthur, or telephone Lake Arthur - 774-2750.

19. STREETER RANCH

The Streeter Ranch was owned by the Streeters from 1915-1924. In 1924 it was sold to an insurance company from England. In 1933 Mr. Charlie Paggi bought Streeter Ranch for nine thousand dollars. Mr. Charlie Paggi is now deceased and the property is owned by a son and daughter. The son's name is Charles and the daughter's name is Bertha. There are 9060 acres in Streeter Ranch.

20. GREEN HOUSE

The Green House was built by Desire Hebert in 1865 and is one of Lowery's oldest home sites. The walls were built of mud. The house has been remodeled but some of the walls are still the original mud ones behind the paneling and some of the blocks are also the original ones. The original roof was not changed until 1941 or 1942. Mr. Alpha Dupre was one of the men who changed the roof. The second owner was Captain Lowery. The third was Tom Stagall who had a store in the attic. The fourth was Jim Gardiner. The fifth was Harry Chawkly and the sixth was Robert Bell, now deceased; but his brother Fay and Robert Bell's son Jimmy are in charge. It is used as a summer home by Mr. and Mrs. Wayland Welch.

20A. URSIN MILLER HOME

The Ursin Miller house is said to be well over a century old. It belonged to one of Mrs. Miller's ancestors, a Baumgartner, who was a Jayhawker. During the Civil War, the house was used as the headquarters for the Jayhawker gang that hid by day and ravaged the shores of the marshes and lakes by night, traveling by sailboat.

This same Baumgartner, when around the age of fourteen, lived at Morgan City. He worked for a gang of pirates by helping to transport smuggled goods by oxcart from ship to warehouse.

During the Civil War or soon afterwards, Baumgartner and three companions captured a Negro, who had attacked a white woman. They tied him to a tree that stands between Ursin Miller's and Leonard Miller's house and then proceeded to skin him alive.

Mrs. Miller claims that this tree has a face on its trunk to the day, and states that on that tree she has seen distinctly the formation of a cross on three different occasions.

In Mrs. Ursin Miller's house, people have claimed for years to have seen a man rise from the ashes in the fireplace and walk out and disappear from view.

When Leonard Miller was a youngster, he slept in the attic in what is now his mother's home. One moonlight night, Leonard
says he saw a holly branch being extended from the ceiling. He tried to catch it, but it disappeared only to reappear, loaded with bright red berries. Again he reached out his hand to grasp it; again it disappeared. Then a coil of rope ending in a hangman's noose dangled down towards him. He reached out his hand to touch it, but it would always elude his grasp, coiling and uncoiling about his face. Frightened, he ran down stairs to join his parents.

21. LOWERY CHAPEL AND ITS LOST BELL

The bell of the Lowery Chapel (St. Catherine's Chapel) was stolen in 1958 by two fruit and vegetable peddlers. Part of the bell was recovered in 1959 - only part of it, because it had been sold for scrap metal at a junk yard. This went to court in 1960 (18 months after the bell was recovered) in Cameron. It cost the taxpayers fifteen hundred dollars to try the case. The men received a sentence of 20 days in jail.

21A. LOWERY LANDINGS

1. Myers Landing
2. Superior Landing
3. Gary Landing
4. Broussard Landing
5. Nunez Landing

22. THE MORGAN PLANTATION (Written by Jimmie P. Maxwell, Gulf Coast District Conservationish, April 15, 1969)

The tract of land, now known as the Morgan Plantation, was originally purchased by John B. Declouet, a resident of Havana, Cuba, from the United States during the time that Andrew Jackson was President. The signature of President Jackson was affixed to this transaction on November 1, 1833. This was only 58 years after the U. S. Independence. The U. S. Land Office for this area was then in Opelousas, Louisiana. Since the original purchase, many prominent people have owned this farm.

Mr. E. P. Fox of Lake Arthur, purchased the farm on March 20, 1925. The Morgans acquired the farm from Mr. Charles H. Fox in 1940. Mr. Charles H. Fox was the son of Mr. E. P. Fox. The farm is bounded on the north by Lafitte Cut-Off (La. Hwy. 14) and on the south by Lake Arthur.

There is a legend that Jean Lafitte, the pirate, passed through this area during some of his exploits - hence the name Lafitte Cut-Off was given this east-west road. This legend also gave rise to the belief that this famous pirate buried some of his treasure along this route. This legend is still sufficiently strong enough that it is not unusual for treasure hunters to dig for buried treasure along the lake front on the Morgan Plantation.
David Morgan, one of the owners and manager of the farm says he has done a lot of digging on the farm since 1940, but not with the idea of finding buried treasurers.

A progressive step by an earlier owner was the installation of a huge earthen irrigation canal system that furnished water for this farm and many adjoining farms. A large pump set up on the lake front powered by a huge crude oil engine supplied the water. According to reliable reports, this engine was moved by teams of oxen to its location. The weight of the engine and poor roads made this endeavor a major task requiring several days.

In 1959, the old crude oil engine was dismantled for scrap and hauled from the site. A witness on the scene to record this bit of history reports that with modern methods the old engine, the last one on the lake, was dismantled and moved in a matter of hours. The pomp-pomp sound of the old engine was replaced by the purr of a much smaller compact motor that is said to be less disturbing to the dwellers along the lake front. However, many old-timers in the near-by town of Lake Arthur would again welcome the pomp-pomp of the old engine to lull them to sleep, as in years gone by.

A year or so after the Morgans purchased this land, Mr. Albert Morgan, father of the present owners, was possessed with an idea of creating a recreational area that he might share with his friends of the community. To fulfil this dream, he set aside a beautiful five acre tract of land including a natural swamp that he developed into a man made lake, and stocked it with fish. This is now known as the Morgan Plantation Park. Huge live oaks laden with spanish moss hug the western shore of the small lake. This small lake is studded with giant cypress trees that give a swamp-like appearance in the middle of this chenier ridge. The cool shade afforded by the live oaks and the pleasant lake breeze from the south has made this a desirable spot for relaxation. Many groups throughout the years have sought out this spot for picnics, fishing and swimming. It is doubtful if there is a like private facility anywhere in the area that is shared with so many people.

In 1949 new inovations in farming appeared, and an extensive land leveling program was introduced on the farm. Maple Hughes, a young Lake Arthur farmer had introduced heavy earth moving machinery to the area to do land leveling. The Morgans lost no time in getting started on the job of leveling. This was the advent of establishing soil and water conservation practices on this farm, one of the many changes that have occurred. For several years an extensive rice and cattle operation was carried on which saw increased rice yields and the development of a fine herd of Brangus Cattle.

In 1961, the Morgans introduced soybeans in the Lake Arthur area. When this was done the herd of cattle was sold and all the fences were torn down. The introduction of the soybeans called for further agronomic and engineering practices including refinements in both land and water management. In accomplishing this, another giant step was made. This step included the installation of an underground irrigation pipeline for conveying water for the farm followed by the obliteration of most of the huge earthen overland canals. This new system supplies instant water to all high places on the farm. A drainage system for conveying water from the farm is also included.
Stories about rice and soybeans productions, the installation of the underground irrigation pipeline and the slogans painted on the old canal bulkheads at the entrance of the farm have appeared in the Progressive Farmer Magazine and other farm magazines during the last few years.

In 1968, the Morgans applied some 34,000 lbs. of Blackstrap Molasses to the soybean land. This area of feeding the soil microbes with molasses, a Louisiana product, attracted much attention and was carried by NBC on both tv and radio.

In July, 1959, the Morgans turned over the lake front property to a holding company - known as Morgan Shores. To accomplish this, the original road which followed as near the lake as possible was closed and a new road established some 200 feet from the lake bank. This space was then surveyed and divided into lots. Today more than thirty families have purchased lots and have second homes on the lake front where they spend much of their leisure time. These are the lake front dwellers that prompted the Morgans in the interest of creating a more pleasing atmosphere to dismantle and move the old pomp-pomp engine. The story of this development, first in this area, was published in the Louisiana Real Estate Record. This project converted an eroding lake front into stabilized lawns surrounding the homes.

The markers at the entrance of the farm carries signs, "Morgan Plantation", which is the home of the farm, and "Morgan Shores", which refers to the development along the lake front. In addition, there are two slogans, "We farm with our eyes to the future," and "We strive always to be better stewards of the soil". These slogans are indicative of the wishes and desires of the owners of Morgan Plantation.

23. LAKE ARTHUR PARK

24. THE ADAM NUNEZ HOME (formerly Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Hinen's home)

The Nunez home was built in 1884 by Mr. Lee Fox. The house faces north and is across from the Lake Arthur Park. Mr. Fox was from the North which was the reason for the house facing north. He also owned a sawmill.

Mr. Fox sold the home to Mrs. Elenor Leonard who was Mrs. W. C. Hinen's mother. Dr. and Mrs. Hinen inherited the house after Mrs. Leonard's death. Dr. Hinen's office was in the house as long as he practiced medicine.

Adam Nunez then bought the house from Mrs. Hinen in 1968 and restored it. The white safe that is in the kitchen was the original one that Mrs. Hinen used as a bride.

25. PARK - REFRESHMENTS
The Legend of Lakeside’s Clinic - Long ago at Lakeside (then written Lake Side Place) there stood a small clinic. Families who lived in the building later insisted that they heard sounds of chairs rocking and babies crying.

To these sounds, they attribute the fact that nurses rocked babies to sleep there, and that one unfortunate infant died there.

Icy Hands at Lakeside - At Lakeside a young woman walked to a cupboard, which stood in a corner of the kitchen, to get a bottle of medicine for her ailing father. An unseen hand, cold as ice, clasped itself about her arm and held her in its grasp for several minutes.

Upon being released, she trembled so with fright that she dropped the bottle to the floor. The cork popped out and the liquid was spilled. As she stooped to pick up the bottle and clean the floor she discovered that the bottle had contained laudanum instead of her father’s prescription!

The Swinging Gate - Near the Intracoastal Canal, not far from the site of the old Klondike school, one can see the ruins of an old homestead. The fences are entirely gone, but the gate still stands—a gate that never stops swinging.

It is the place where many years ago two men killed each other in a duel.

The Milk-White Bear of Klondike - A certain man, now living in Klondike east of the old school, was returning home on horseback after a hard day of work. He was relaxing and enjoying the silvery beauty of the moonlit night. Suddenly, on the opposite side of the road, he saw a large, shaggy, milk-white bear trotting along. He rode fast, and the bear increased its speed. He slowed to a walk, and the bear did the same.

This continued until the man could stand it no longer. He stopped his horse and dismounted on the side opposite the bear. He peeped under his horse’s neck, expecting to see the white creature standing still. However, it had disappeared completely, and he did not see it again.

But there are others who say that ever so often on moonlight nights the milk-white bear trots the highways and byroads of the Klondike community.

Myth of Lowery’s Cherokee Roses - In Lowery, long ago, there lived alone in a tumbled-down shack, a legless and armless man. His neighbors looked upon him with sympathy and awe. He asked no help of anyone, and none dared offer him aid.

How he obtained food or cared for himself they never knew. Some said that his spirit could withdraw from his body at the setting of the sun. And it was that spirit, flitting about Lowery, that planted the Cherokee roses where ever he went.

Jewels of Lowery - Somewhere on Lowery—no one knows where—there is supposed to be a large room built underground. It is said to be filled with gold and silver and precious jewels. And it is being guarded by the spirits of all those who had once fought and died to amass such a fortune.