Artistic Laureate of Louisiana

The idea of an "artist laureate" is entirely new, not only in the state of Louisiana but in the nation. However, instances of several kinds are set up in the culture of the Greeks and the Romans, for they first originated this honor, and to make it record above any material gift or remuneration, an official of their government would place a laurel wreath on the head of a leading representative in any achievement in which their nation was interested. Literature, poetry, and music seemed to get their particular attention, even though art was not directly taken notice of this kind.

The legislatures of several states and the federal congress have been approached by a scientific artist who has had many years experience in art and the reading of Louisiana history. He has written several books about Louisiana art, which the state provides no remunerations whatever. Yet I am glad to represent and advertise Louisiana art at home and whenever I visit another state.

For instance, a girl from Shreveport writes me recently asking simply, "How can I be an artist?" I am often asked what an artist is and what one does. I pursue my work, painting native subjects and offering them in full color, especially on wood. I have helped five states—California, Kansas, Texas, Maryland, and New York—and the state of Louisiana. The legislature created the office of artist laureate, hoping that eventually every state in the union will have one.

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Shreveport in July is normally rather dry, with only 3.7 inches of rain supposed to fall. Last month, however, was anything but normal, weather-wise: 6.17 inches fell. How come? Was it because of Shreveport's rainmakers? The Inquiring Photographer asked that of a few rather dampish Shreveporters and here's what they said about it:

W. S. HYDE, 157 Charles: "The rainmakers may have squeezed some additional moisture out of rain clouds that came by, but I don't think they made any of the rain clouds."

MRS. ROSELYN GEORGE, 682 Jordan: "I don't believe in the rainmakers at all. I think the rain was caused by St. Swithin. If it rains on St. Swithin's day (July 15), it will rain for six weeks thereafter."

J. F. PRUDHOMME, 3553 Lillian: "All the rain we've had has been a result of natural causes. I don't believe the rainmakers can produce rain—it's been a joke and a racket."

MISS DORIS PRICE, 2532 Emer: "I think Mother Nature has everything to do with the weather, and don't believe in the rainmakers' producing rain. Nature has just been particularly nice to us this summer."

C. A. DUERSON, 207 Topeka: "I believe the rainmakers have a share in producing the rainfall. Nature seems to me to be somewhat out of balance this summer, which may have added to it, but I think the rainmakers are largely responsible."

MRS. ROBERT JACKSON, 140 Norwood: "I'm not too hep on the rainmakers. I thought the city was wasting money when they hired them. Anyway, the rains this summer have been too general to have been man-made jobs."